

From

Sent: 23 February 2021 19:05

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Closure of Hetton le Hole nursery school.

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing this as a mother to one of the children who is going to be massively affected by the closure of Hetton le hole nursery school. Not only has she been born into a pandemic but now her other safe place with people who have spent more time with her than her own family is going to be taken away from her. As if the last 12 months have not been stressful enough for any parent but for Sunderland council to do this now it's disgusting!

The proposed new build of Hetton le hole primary I do not disagree with but the fact you will close an outstanding nursery and childcare provision. Goes beyond me!

The increase in traffic in that area is going to cause major problems it's already an accident waiting to happen.

No provision for the under twos or wrap around care?

Where does my child go from here?

Greedy greedy greedy and down right awful! Sunderland council you should be ashamed. That nursery your building will never be a patch on Hetton le hole nursery school and the people and councillors and local MPs that let this happen shame on you!

From one very upset and worried parent of a beautiful one year old that's worlds about to change dramatically again!

From:

Sent: 07 March 2021 11:22

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton Nursery

To Whom It May Concern

I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole because:

1. Sunderland City Council has failed to comply with the Department of Education Guidance of November 2019 of giving the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools.
2. Sunderland City Council has permitted and encouraged unfair competition by allowing numerous private nurseries to undercut state schools.
3. Sunderland City Council has been derelict in its duties by not actively involving and discussing with the Nursery, its governors, residents, families and Hetton Town Council possible ways to overcome the difficulties of falling roll numbers.
4. Sunderland City Council has not provided any Covid-19 relief funds to the Nursery despite having received many millions from central government.
5. Sunderland City Council has failed to provide additional funding for this Nursery and other maintained nurseries to clear any outstanding deficits despite having an underspend of over £4 million.
6. The budget forecast produced by Sunderland City Council to 'justify' the closure is inaccurate and forecast additional pupils will eliminate the projected deficit.
7. Sunderland City Council deliberately distorted facts relating to the uplift given to the Nursery as the reason for at least one other nursery school going into deficit.

8. Sunderland City Council will be putting the Health and Safety of young and vulnerable children from the Nursery at risk by transferring them to temporary demountable classrooms /asbestos ridden reconfigured building for a period of up to 3 years.
9. Sunderland City Council's Cabinet took the decision to move forward to a statutory consultation 5 days before the pre consultation closed and this did not permit all responses to be considered.

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 07 March 2021 12:09

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc:

Subject: Save Hetton Nursery School

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole because:

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9. Sunderland City Council's Cabinet took the decision to move forward to a statutory consultation 5 days before the pre consultation closed and this did not permit all responses to be considered.

From:

Sent: 07 March 2021 13:32

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton nursery closure

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole because:

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9. Sunderland City Council's Cabinet took the decision to move forward to a statutory consultation 5 days before the pre consultation closed and this did not permit all responses to be considered.

Signed,

From:

Sent: 07 March 2021 18:37

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Fwd: Objection Hetton le Hole Nursery closure

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

See below

----- Forwarded message -----

From:

Date: Mar 7, 2021 6:21 PM

Subject: Objection Hetton le Hole Nursery closure

To: "schoolorganisation.sunderland.gov.uk" <

I wish to object to Sunderland council proposal to close Hetton le Hole Nursery School.

This nursery is part of Hetton le Hole's heritage and history and has served many families within the community for 75 years.

Sunderland council have failed the community by selling the old hetton library building to tavistock nursery, a private nursery which was a ploy to try and lower the numbers of Hetton le hole nursery which they tried to close a few years previously also.

The plans to make a new primary school with a nursery don't make sense and if the funding is available why hasn't the Nursery been given help.

The current Covid situation we find ourselves in is a difficult enough one let alone moving small children into more uncertainty putting their health and mental health at risk.

Sunderland Council has failed to follow guidelines and closed the consultation period early too.

Please accept this as a formal objection

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 07 March 2021 18:37

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton le hole nursery

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I am emailing my objection to the closure of this nursery!!

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 07 March 2021 23:38

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection to closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole because:

1. Sunderland City Council has failed to comply with the Department of Education Guidance of November 2019 of giving the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools.
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8. Sunderland City Council will be putting the Health and Safety of young and vulnerable children from the Nursery at risk by transferring them to temporary demountable classrooms /asbestos ridden reconfigured building for a period of up to 3 years.

9. Sunderland City Council's Cabinet took the decision to move forward to a statutory consultation 5 days before the pre consultation closed and this did not permit all responses to be considered.

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 08 March 2021 10:56

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection - closure of Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

Good morning,

I am writing to advise that I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole because:

1. Sunderland City Council has failed to comply with the Department of Education Guidance of November 2019 of giving the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools.
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9. Sunderland City Council's Cabinet took the decision to move forward to a statutory consultation 5 days before the pre consultation closed and this did not permit all responses to be considered.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

From:

Sent: 08 March 2021 20:34

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection to close Hatton or Hole Nursery School

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8 March 2021

To whom it may concern,

I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole because:

1. Sunderland City Council has failed to comply with the Department of Education Guidance of November 2019 of giving the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools
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9. Sunderland City Council's Cabinet took the decision to move forward to a statutory consultation 5 days before the pre consultation closed and this did not permit all responses to be considered.
10. And finally, this nursery is invaluable to the local community. Please do not close to sell off the land to build more homes for families who may need a nursery!!

ex pupil and parent who used the childcare/nursery provision

From:

Sent: 09 March 2021 09:48

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hands off Hetton Le Hole Nursery.

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

To whomever it may concern,

May I begin by saying that I find it a DISGRACE that closing a nursery during an actual pandemic is something SCC find an appropriate procedure. After all the normality being stripped away from actual babies/toddlers and young children, you want to then also take their only way of seeing friends and familiar faces away from them? OUR CHILDREN, OUR CHILDREN THAT DONT EVEN KNOW FAMILY MEMBERS. Because of this pandemic my son doesn't even SPEAK. HES TWO AND A HALF YEARS OLD. He hasn't been able to have interactions with other kids regularly and therefore not been able to develop the right skills from learning from others around him. However since he started this absolutely fantastic nursery, you would not believe the leaps and bounds he's made just from starting in January. You should be ashamed of yourselves that taking this away from a single child never mind the rest of the kids that attend.

I will add that it's obviously not just us as parents that believe this an "outstanding" nursery, as you will know, Ofsted has agreed this is the only outstanding nursery in our area. Something that I believe should be taken into consideration when you are talking about them spending money on OUR CHILDREN. Are we meant to just not spend money on our kids and let them have poorer education and send them to nurseries and schools that don't have as good a rating? How do you think they gain that rating? Yes the care and passion they give to OUR CHILDREN but OUR CHILDREN also need the right facilities, toys, books etc to be able to help them succeed. Maybe this isn't about sanctioning our nursery for doing the right things for OUR CHILDREN. Maybe this should be about telling the other nurseries to buck their ideas up and get them to be at the best standard too.

And don't even try to say that there's 'no money' to help us we all know for a FACT there's just under £4.1 MILLION that's been unspent, straight from central government that should be spent on... you guessed it OUR CHILDREN. that money is for OUR CHILDRENS development, their ability to succeed in life, THEIR ABILITY TO TALK. Not to become teenagers that like to burn down their local football changing rooms (The same place I work, which meant for a while I had very little income, so that affected me personally, I bet it didn't affect those kids one bit) or smash every window in their local bus station, which I'm sure cost the council enough money. Would you like to reveal where that money has gone? Or what your plans are with that money? Lining your mates pockets do you think? Because that's what everyone else is thinking.

And on that note, what will happen to the nursery building once it's vacated? Somewhere new for the kids to burn or smash to bits or get high in? in the center of a neighbourhood with god knows how many houses around with a lot of vulnerable residents? Including some of the current children attending the nursery (or should I say statistics so you'll pay attention?).

I am currently 37 weeks pregnant and ready to drop, my current child attends that nursery and sure as hell if this nursery stays open my second child will be going to, just to add to your statistics for the day. I moved to Hetton from Hadrian Avenue in Chester Le Street just under 4 years ago to move in with my boyfriend and if I'm completely brutally honest it really hits home with me all the time knowing that our council neglects this area at every chance. It's completely ridiculous. Just looking at Chester front street compared to hetton bus station is like comparing apples and oranges. It just signals a complete lack of respect and unjustified ignorance towards us. But it shouldn't just be because I moved from another area, Every council SHOULD be doing everything it can for it's whole area so why are we being left behind and being told our only decent nursery has to close because the YOU want some more money in your pockets? What about the PEOPLE? Do we not deserve the money that is rightfully ours?

I could go on for ours about this topic and I wish I could because the end of the day this is about MY CHILDS FUTURE. I don't think any of us are conned by councillors starting meetings or flimsy Facebook posts by saying "no one wants to close a nursery" because you could just simply HELP US. ITS WHAT YOU'RE PAID TO DO.

I really hope you'll consider everything that every single person has said/emailed to you. From one human being to another.

Yours Sincerely

From:

Sent: 10 March 2021 15:04

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Proposal closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery school

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Hi, this is my response to the proposal of closure of Hetton-Le-Hole nursery school. Firstly I'd like to say myself and my sibling attended this outstanding Nursery when younger which was around 24 years plus. Now I currently have my little boy attending who has nearly completed his first year, he wasn't long ago diagnosed with autism and was falling way behind in his development. Since attending this Nursery setting he has improved, learned and developed rapidly. My main concern is with him being halfway through his journey that the transition will have an impact on his emotional well being. I personally feel he won't receive the level of care or support elsewhere as he's does within this outstanding Nursery school.

All keyworkers need support during this pandemic and not needing to worry about the Nursery closure as well as more jobs being lost and smaller opportunities for children's education.

I personally did not plan for my child and future child/children to attend any other Nursery setting especially not Hetton primary. It really concerns me how we are expected to send our children to a setting which is riddled with asbestos and how the council are willing to spend their money elsewhere rather than making use of the established nursery setting.

I feel like it's time to give this amazing community a chance to turn this around before a major proposal takes place. Parents have been putting together financial plans to save this amazingly outstanding Nursery setting and have raised £3,000 in a couple of weeks, which in this current climate where people are without work and unable to due to COVID raising such a substantial amount to aid the nursery is outstanding in itself. All we need now is to share our plan with the council as I fear there's been very little communication within the whole of the community to take action.

This outstanding setting has been established since 1945 and was pronounced the first ever maintained Nursery school within the whole of Sunderland. As said before much child currently attends and the care I've witnessed him receiving is extraordinary, the staff go above and beyond to support all children/children with various needs and all families within the area. This nursery and the performance of it has always been known and recognised as top class "outstanding". Research also shows that maintained Nursery schools provide a better quality of education for all children.

Kind regards.

From:

Sent: 10 March 2021 15:38

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton nursery school

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I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole because:

1. Sunderland City Council has failed to comply with the Department of Education Guidance of November 2019 of giving the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools.
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9. Sunderland City Council's Cabinet took the decision to move forward to a statutory consultation 5 days before the pre consultation closed and this did not permit all responses to be considered.

From:

Sent: 10 March 2021 20:26

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton le Hole Nursery

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To whom it may concern,

To be forthright, it is an absolute disgrace that the council have the closure of this nursery up for debate, whoever is involved in this decision making isn't from the area and is obviously ignorant to how good this nursery is! Voted outstanding by the industry regulator...Why are we hell bent on destroying the few good things we have left in this world? Frankly, it is a shameful act of the council to have this closure under consideration and I strongly urge a reconsideration without delay. If it transpires it is closed going forward the people involved should be ashamed of themselves.

Kind Regards,

From:

Sent: 10 March 2021 22:34

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Proposed closure of Hetton Nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Hi, i am writing this email in response to the proposed closure of Hetton Nursery later this year. This nursery has been open for 75 years and has been the backbone of children's education and

development throughout the Hetton area. My children attended this nursery over twenty years ago as well as many of my nephews and nieces. My grandson now attends and is in his first year. He was recently diagnosed with autism and we all feared his development would be greatly affected both socially and academically. Since starting nursery last September he has come on in leaps and bounds due to the dedication and 1-1 care he receives from the excellent staff who work there. I am extremely worried that all this progress will account to nothing if he is forced to start at another nursery this year. Hetton nursery has been classed as outstanding from OFSTED for the way it has taught and brought children along in the early days of their development and I really can't understand why Sunderland Council see this nursery as no longer financially viable, is money more important than children's education and development, I don't believe it is and most people in this community feel the same. Every parent and Grandparent have nothing but complete trust and admiration for the staff team within the nursery who go above and beyond their duties on a daily basis to ensure that every child's needs are catered for. We as a family are absolutely distraught at the thought of this nursery closing and the effect it will have on not only my own Grandson but on everyone else's child, grandchild. I really hope that with public support growing at the rate it is at the moment Sunderland Council will reconsider its decision and put the children of Hetton le Hole first. Everyone who has any affiliation with the nursery are feeling very let down by yourselves, Hetton Council and also our local MP's who seem very reluctant to get involved despite they all are elected by the very public they are meant to represent. Parents and families are currently trying to raise funds in many ways to try and help fund this nursery, this all happening when life is very tough for everyone at the moment due to the impact of Covid 19. Sunderland Council need to understand the impact this closure will have on all the families and staff for many years to come. Generation after generation have all been proud of this outstanding nursery, please don't let Hetton le Hole lose one of its most important places of education and development for our youngest and deprive them of a loving and caring nursery.

Regards,

From:

Sent: 11 March 2021 11:52

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton Le Hole Nursery

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you to express my concerns regarding the closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery School.

I currently have 2 children who both attend the Nursery school and they have attended the school since 12 months old. Closing the Nursery in September would mean that they would not finish their time before school at the Nursery, as they would not start school until Sept 2022. If the Nursery were to close in September this would be truly devastating for myself as a parent and my children. As I would like them to go to the school in the village that we live (which does not offer 30 hours free funded places only 15) I would be unable to send them there from September. As a working parent, who is also a key worker I rely on the wrap around care that Hetton provides and the full 30 hours which I am entitled to. To move the children to another private Nursery for 1 year before they start school would be too much for their emotional wellbeing, especially taking into consideration that they will have to make a further change the following year.

When looking at childcare options when back in 2018 one of the main points to consider was the fact that Hetton Nursery has an outstanding ofsted rating, in fact the school was recommended for this from a relative

who is a head teacher at an infant school. There are no other Nursery environments in the area which I could send my children which has an outstanding rating on Ofstead.

Taking into consideration that the Nursery may close I looked at Nursery closer to my work and none could offer me the 30 hours I required only 15. This is not suitable for me and Hetton has been able to support my needs as a working parent. I also will not be sending my child to Hetton primary school and this is the one highlighted will have space for children if the Nursery was to close. It is assumed my child will move across to this Nursery as they would have the space, but this is not the case. I will have to find a Nursery that can take my children for 1 year until they are school age. Many of the top rated Nurseries simply do not have these spaces available. Hetton Le Hole Nursery is outstanding and my children already go there I would much prefer to not have this added stress to think about a new nursery when they are so close to school age.

2020 was already a very tough year for any child to go through. The Nursery supported myself as a key worker and took my children on days when they would not normally attend at no extra cost. I was very grateful of this and it been nothing but exceptional to help my children throughout this pandemic. The Nursery was kept open during the pandemic and I felt much safer as a parent them going to a nursery setting rather than a school setting. If we were to go into a lockdown again and the Nursery was closed this would be very worrying for me as parent.

I know the Nursery and the staff there are doing all they can to stay open all whilst still providing the outstanding care of the children who go there. This is worrying times for them as they will need to find new jobs, finding a job at any time is worrying but even more so after the effects covid 19 has had on the local labour market. If more funding was put into the Nursery, then it would keep people in jobs and most importantly children in an excellent education setting. A setting which supports the needs of many working parents, which I feel that school Nursery's do not. Please take all these points into consideration when making your decision to close such an outstanding Nursery in the heart of the environment. It would be a real shame to lose such an amazing place that has created the foundation of my children's learning. My children are excited to go to school, I do not want this impacting on their mental health.

Regards

From:

Sent: 11 March 2021 14:54

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc:

Subject: Objection to Proposed Closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery

Please see below objection from Sunderland City Councillors, Hetton Ward to the proposed closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery:

We the city councillors representing the Hetton Ward object in the strongest terms to the proposed closure of Hetton Nursery school.

Hetton Nursery School is a much loved and cherished provision which has been at the heart of the community for 75 years.

While we understand the financial pressures faced due to lack of funding from central government, we urge Sunderland City Council to continue to find a way to keep the nursery school open.

Councillors have proposed over recent months alternative governance models such as shared head and amalgamation with a neighbouring nursey school. As well as this consideration of a social enterprise/CIC model and funding from Hetton Town Council precept.

We urge Sunderland City Council to ensure that every possible avenue is thoroughly followed to seek an alternative to closure. The loss of such a provision would have tremendous impact on our community.

Cllrs Blackburn, Rowntree & Turner

Kind regards,

From:
Sent: 12 March 2021 20:14
To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>
Subject: Hetton nursery school closure

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

Hello

I am writing to say that closing this Hetton Nursery School will be very detrimental to the surrounding areas! I don't know how you think that closing the only outstanding nursery is a good idea! Because it's definitely not! If only you knew how hard you have to work to achieve an outstanding grade! As a fellow nursery worker (not in this area), I know how important it is for children to have a familiar and secure environment to help them thrive and develop as much as they can, closing the nursery is taking away their confidence to learn and achieve their milestones! Children need familiarity and routine, this is giving them the exact opposite. I am most appalled by this decision, especially with having a family member attend this nursery. My family member has developed so much within his short time at the nursery thanks to the amazing staff members who know the children and treat them as their own! Especially in a pandemic, where thousands of people have already lost their jobs, you're willing to put even more out of work? This is ridiculous. Parents put trust into this nursery, the nursery nurses are no longer strangers. They are like family. I really hope you change your minds about this and save Hetton Nursery School (the only ofsted rated outstanding nursery in the area!)

I hope you take this seriously. Me along with lots of other families are very very disappointed.

#SAVEHETTONNURSERY SCHOOL

From:
Sent: 13 March 2021 18:54
To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>
Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk
Subject: Proposed closure

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee

I write to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School. My niece goes to the school and has done since she was 8 months old. Due to covid she has become exceptionally shy and becomes extremely distressed if she is not with a familiar adult to the point where she can vomit. She is extremely happy at nursery and the staff she has known from starting this amazing school. This results in her being happy and ready to learn in a place where she feels safe and secure. To close the nursery when so many young children are so severely affected emotionally and socially by the pandemic we find ourselves in, is both irresponsible and neglectful of the council. The impact on children like my niece should be the first priority of the council, not finances. The cost of moving children to new settings away from peers and staff, they have for the last year treated as their family without proper time for them to adjust to a new and busier world, could not only result in the council still having the outstanding deficit and redundancy fees incurred, but also an increased number of children 🥹 including my niece needing additional emotional support at an increased cost to new setting and thus the council. I urge you to reconsider the timing of this and put the children's well being first in a time when they need stability most. The parents, school staff, Hetton Town Council and school governors are more than willing to set an agreed financial plan with the council to ensure the deficit does not increase in this next year and they can work on reducing the deficit. No members of the council have engaged in conversations around a financial plan with all stakeholders and those most directly impacted by this decision, the parents. I have listened to my sister becoming increasingly unwell due to the additional worry caused by this and the upset at the council's inability to have these conversations and set action plans to make this nursery once again viable. It is evident

that if there are still avenues and financial options available that could be explored that all of these options should be explored and exhausted first before a council even considers closing a nursery. This has not been done.

Yours sincerely

From:

Sent: 15 March 2021 15:17

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le hole outstanding nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

- Dear sir/madam
- Our 3yr old son has been attending Hetton le Hole nursery since he was 12 months old. He loves been there and has made so many friends.
- He will be starting school in September 2022. If his nursery is closed it means he will have to move from his safe place which he loves, to a different setting where his friends might not go to plus he won't have his teachers. He will be there for a year and then have to move to a new school and do it all again. This will have a major impact on his emotional well being.
- Hetton le hole nursery have helped and supported not only our son but us as parents.
- Our son was recently diagnosed with a rare brain defect and all staff and Ruth have communicated with his health professionals to put a plan in place to help with his educational and complex needs. They have gone above and beyond to help him. Another reason we are really concerned about him having to move from nursery to nursery and then school. It could take months for another nursery to learn his needs.
- Our son is learning makaton sign language at nursery. They have trained staff who are amazing and he's picking it up really good. They have also given us help sheets so we can learn at home. I've looked around and do not see any other nursery that have trained staff in this field.
- Our son will NOT be attending Hetton primary, so why would we move him to the nursery for a year when he's in a perfectly outstanding nursery now.
- Putting children into Porter cabins and asbestos class rooms is really bad for their health. Esp for nursery aged children. I worked in construction and no full well the dangers of building sites, with dust, rubble, cement etc. Which is made more dangerous with children under 4yr old been put in that environment.
- A big concern is Hetton primary is right next to a busy road with no parking and also right next to Hetton comprehensive. So you have the danger off construction workers, more busy traffic and older children, with no parking. Doesn't take much for an older child to push one of the little ones into the road.
- Why will SSC not use the underspend to help out Hetton le Hole nursery and others that are facing closure?
- Hetton le hole nursery is set back away from roads and other schools. There is also a car park.

- The nursery garden has everything. There are nature walks, trees, etc. Not paving slabs like other nurseries around. One of the reason I decided to send my child to Hetton le hole and not one of the others.
- The nursery is not just a place for our children to learn but to make friends and also the whole nursery are like family. The care you receive from them all is outstanding. We would be heartbroken if the nursery were to close and all the children had to find somewhere else. They might not even get into a nursery that is close to where we live. Hetton le nursery is practically in our doorstep.

We really hope you listen to us all and take everything into consideration. We will do anything and everything we can to keep our much loved nursery open.

From:

Sent: 15 March 2021 18:38

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le hole nursery closure

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I am writing, as a member of the public to OBJECT against the closure of Hetton le

Hole nursery school.

Firstly, we are in the middle of a pandemic, currently with no end date- do children and parents need this sort of worry and upheaval playing on their minds during these already stressful times?

Is closing a nursery, putting the staff out of guaranteed work in an already terrible year morally correct? They've spent the last year, putting their own health at risk looking after other people's children and their thanks from the council is their p45? I appreciate SOME of the staff MAY be able to gain employment at the new Hetton nursery but that doesn't justify it when some of the staff will still be left looking for alternative employment, especially the leadership team- what a waste of highly qualified staff!

Looking at the statistics of the nursery, you can't argue the provision is incomparable to other provisions in the area. None of the other nurseries in Hetton are ofsted rated outstanding.

In fact, In the Ofsted report, it notes that ' The hard working staff team put children and their parents or carers at the centre of all they do. This strong ethos results in staff listening to children and their parents and carers, valuing their views and acting on what they say'

Along with

‘Staff are loving, friendly and considerably caring as they carefully tend to each child's individual needs and facilitate their learning throughout the day. As a result, children are extremely happy and self-motivated in this fully inclusive environment’

These are the staff who are going to lose their job? It doesn't make sense. I could go on to quote other stand out points in the ofsted report, but I'm sure you must have familiarised yourselves with it, just before flipping the coin on the staff and children's futures?

Currently, I don't have a child who attends the nursery but I can speak from the point of view of a parent of a past pupil. My daughter started at the nursery in 2017 when she was 11 months old. I don't live particularly local to the nursery, nor do I work in the same direction but I choose the provision based on the quality of education, the staff, the setting, the results, recommendations and the nurseries history. None of these things I felt were replicated like for like at any other nurseries closer to home. My daughter started as a baby and when she left (sept 2000) she was a bright, well mannered, thriving 4 year old with excellent social and communication skills which I can only express my thanks to the staff at the nursery for.

The opportunities she was given during her time there went above and beyond. She learnt self care, care for animals, the environment, others and basic life skills alongside an educational base beyond what would be expected.

She is now in reception and although one of the youngest in the class, she is by far above many of her older peers in terms of education. She's one of the top at reading, writing and maths and hetton le hole nursery have helped her blossom into an independent young lady with a passion to try her best and for that I will be forever grateful.

Luckily I now have another child who will be attending Hetton le hole nursery school in September 2021- why shouldn't I be able to give both my children an equal start in life?

I truly don't feel like there's any other setting that offers the same opportunities as this nursery which is especially worrying if, heaven forbid, she ever needed extra support for special needs, as this setting has a qualified SENDCO which is invaluable.

Does the new build at hetton primary school offer equal provision? I'm not sure how putting my youngest daughter into demountable classrooms to kick start her early years education compares to the nursery gardens and

purpose built classrooms that my eldest was offered. Do I not deserve the choice to give both my children the same start?

You say there's no planned use for the building as yet? You won't need to think of a use if you let it stay open.

As we are all well aware, maintained nursery schools are severely underfunded by central government. Year on year budget cuts in early years have made it near impossible for maintained nursery schools to be financially stable and it has been noted that the financial status of the nursery isn't due to mismanagement of funds but the unavoidable costs related to maintained nursery schools. That said, government funding decisions about MNS's haven't currently been made and government are urging LA's to hold off making decisions about their long term future.

Additionally, the government have provided £60million in supplementary funding for maintained nursery schools and have confirmed this will continue into 21/22 whilst they are considering what is required to ensure a clear, longterm picture of funding for maintained nursery schools.

I was present recently at the meeting organised for the staff and parents of the nursery with Sunderland council, and to be quite honest, I was shocked at the meeting. It was clearly nothing more than a box ticking exercise for the council. To state that the nursery is destabilising other mns's in Sunderland due to a lower contribution-higher outtake of the lump sum is basically irrelevant when you consider the massive underspend the council have accrued over the past three years in early years and specifically special needs. Where are these funds and why can't they be used to save the maintained nursery sector in Sunderland?

Correct me if I'm wrong but it seems to me the only reason to close this nursery is solely based on finances.

Over 5 million pounds have been allocated to build a new school but they can't find money to pay off the deficit, which in the grand scheme of things is nothing.

In fact, the DFE state that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit.

In government guidance it also states that to close a maintained nursery, EQUAL provision must be available that's both convenient and accessible to parents. Where is this? Hetton primary school won't cater for my 1 year old?

I feel this is a short term money saving exercise but the impact of sharing the lump sum amongst the other maintained nursery schools is insignificant with 5 out of 8 of Sunderland's maintained nurseries ending the year 2019-2020 with a deficit.

The council state that the nursery has a deficit upto £200000 that they don't have the capacity to clear , even though a large sum of this is 'old debt' which Ruth has had to deal with since taking over.

This is disappointing especially when you consider you have not provided any COVID relief funds from the millions you have received from central Government, allowing the nursery to accrue an extra £76000 deficit as staff couldn't be furloughed.

It also came to light in the meeting that the council have 'explored other options, non of which are viable'. Can you expand on this? What are the other options that have been disregarded? As members of the public we can think of several ways to help the nursery financially, other than wiping the deficit

- Raising the fees by 50p per hour to put the nursery in line with others in the area would generate over £17000 per year based on children on the roll today, which is more than the predicted in year deficit.

- allowing the nursery to become a feeder nursery for the new build, which would increase the children on the register

- broader advertising and not allowing anymore nurseries to open with the vicinity. Increasing the children on roll will clearly make a huge difference and New build housing is everywhere in Hetton. As Mr Rowan knows for every 100 new build houses there's approx 30 primary age children, all of which start at nursery and many of which start in childcare so increase in numbers is likely. Also, hopefully there's a chance of funding increasing to offer 30 free hours to all 2 year olds- therefore more appealing to working parents of young children

- Fundraising-a massive part of nursery which has been put on stop Due to Covid. Give people a chance to turn things around. In three weeks supporters have raised over £3000- imagine what we could do in a year, two years, five years-through sheer determination

Where's the honest consultation with the community?

92% of the 541 preconsultation responses were objections- yet it closed early?

How many objections hold weight?

What happened to 'for the many not the few' when does a few turn into the many?

Where's our local mp supporting the views of her constituency?

Where are the labour candidates in the hetton town council meetings?

The people of the nursery are reasonable people who would be willing to work with the council to make things better. Sometimes you've got to follow your heart over your head. Let's plan for the future.

Regards

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 15 March 2021 20:16

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: School closure

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee

I write to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School. My niece goes to the school and has done since she was 8 months old. Due to covid she has become exceptionally shy and becomes extremely distressed if she is not with a familiar adult to the point where she can vomit. She is extremely happy at nursery and the staff she has known from starting this amazing school. This results in her being happy and ready to learn in a place where she feels safe and secure. To close the nursery when so many young children are so severely affected emotionally and socially by the pandemic we find ourselves in, is both irresponsible and neglectful of the council. The impact on children like my niece should be the first priority of the council, not finances. The cost of moving children to new settings away from peers and staff, they have for the last year treated as their family without proper time for them to adjust to a new and busier world, could not only result in the council still having the outstanding deficit and redundancy fees incurred, but also an increased number of children 🥺 including my niece needing additional emotional support at an increased cost to new setting and thus the council. I urge you to reconsider the timing of this and put the children's well being first in a time when they need stability most. The parents, school staff, Hetton Town Council and school governors are more than willing to set an agreed financial plan with the council to ensure the deficit does not increase in this next year and they can work on reducing the deficit. No members of the council have engaged in conversations around a financial plan with all stakeholders and those most directly impacted by this decision, the parents. I have listened to my sister becoming increasingly unwell due to the additional worry caused by this and the upset at the council's inability to have these conversations and set action plans to make this nursery once again viable. It is evident that if there are still avenues and financial options available that could be explored that all of these options should be explored and exhausted first before a council even considers closing a nursery. This has not been done.

Yours sincerely

From:

Sent: 15 March 2021 21:38

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection to the proposed closure of Hetton-Le-Hole nursery school

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

To whom it may concern,

I wish to formally object to the proposed closure of Hetton-Le-Hole nursery school. The reasons for my objection are as follows:

Every attempt should be made, to keep an Ofsted rated 'Outstanding' nursery open. The nursery has served entire families, generation after generation with the love, care and education that only the staff, parents and present/past children have had the pleasure of experiencing. Are you really going to deprive the future generations of children the opportunity to attend this nursery? perhaps this the best start they may hope to receive. Please ask yourselves are you going to close this nursery.....due to a minuscule amount of money in comparison to the longer term expenditure of children not being given the best start in life.

The coalfields area has suffered years of unemployment and deprivation. I am fortunate/unfortunate to remember the aftermath of the miners strike, we had nothing to be proud of, and as an outlying district of Sunderland the coalfield area was and continues to be forgotten.

As a Early Years Mental Health Specialist, working in the area, supporting mums with postnatal depression, to develop attachment/bond with their children. I can't not stress enough the importance of the best early years experience. The 'Early Years' are vital to the long term mental health, physical health and overall life chances of our children. We should be opening more Early Years provisions not closing an outstanding one.

I plead with Sunderland City Council to reconsider and I ask you the person reading this email if the decision was down to you (and only you) would you close it, knowing what you are taking away from the children of Hetton-Le- Hole.

I understand austerity, I understand that the public purse isn't a bottomless pit, but you can work with the nursery staff to come to a compromise. The parents are willing to pay an increased hourly rate, I believe the council has a responsibility to meet their constituents half way. Don't close this nursery.....please.....the children are depending upon you to put their needs first.

Kindest regards

A concerned aunt, and mental health professional.

From

Sent: 15 March 2021 22:37

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: against the closure of Hetton le hole nursery school

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

For the attention of the schools organisation committee councillors

I am writing to state my opposition to your proposal to close Hetton le Hole Nursery School. My Great Granddaughter attends the nursery currently and is exceptionally well cared for there. My grand daughter selected this nursery for her daughter because of it's staff's expertise and knowledge of children with delayed learning and also due to the fact an outstanding nursery was available locally to her. Houghton community nursery school is too far to travel when commuting to work and no other outstanding nurseries are available in Hetton le Hole. The opportunity for her daughter to attend one nursery setting from 8 months until she attended reception also supported my grand daughter returning to work so she could support her family financially.

I am almost 82 years of age and know that family and their happiness is everything and that education offers people something that nothing else can: the opportunity for our young people to better their lives. I want the best for my family just like any grandmother and Hetton le Hole Nursery School is the best place for my great granddaughter to be cared for and educated as she feels happy and safe there.

I have not seen my great granddaughter for just over a year now, with the exception of Christmas Day and once in the summer when covid restrictions were lifted and allowed us to do so. She has become increasingly shy and wouldn't separate from her mammy when I saw her at Christmas. My only comfort is that she is settled and happy with the staff at nursery as she has known and been able to see them regularly since being 8 months

old. To close the nursery during this pandemic and not allow children to have the necessary time and support from

Nursery staff that are familiar to them will make the effects of covid have more lasting effects and will for children, like my great granddaughter, mean she will simply not be able to cope with this change. This will effect her in all areas of her learning and compound the delays in learning she already has. The thought of this is simply heartbreaking. I ask you as a mother, grandmother and great grandmother to reconsider the proposal to close this nursery as the effects on the children's well being, emotional state and the quality of their education, which cannot be matched locally within Hetton le Hole will be devastating. All children are entitled to an outstanding education and to take this away from a community in a deprived area would put these children at further disadvantage, particularly in these challenging times.

Thank you for your time in reading my response and I truly hope you give it your full attention and my concerns are listened to.

Yours sincerely

From:

Sent: 16 March 2021 09:05

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le Hole nursery consultation letter.

To whom it may concern,

I wish to put forth my reasons below why I am against the proposed closure of Hetton le Hole nursery. Please see below.

- I have a child who is attending the nursery.
- There is no other setting I feel can meet the needs of my daughter as well as Hetton-le-Hole Nursery does.
- Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is the only early years provision/ nursery that is graded as outstanding by Ofsted. No other setting currently can match the standard of the provision provided.
- The nursery has a qualified SENDco who is an early year's specialist and is able to support all children who have additional needs to make outstanding progress during their time at nursery .My daughter has progressed amazingly because of this vital support.
- Children and parents have suffered immensely as a result of the Covid pandemic and do not need this type of upheaval. It's not fair or just.
- The Council has not provided any Covid-19 relief funds to the nursery despite having received many millions of pounds from central government. The Nursery has incurred £76,000 of Covid-19 losses this year, however despite this the closing deficit (in year) was £58,449. The nursery was unable to furlough staff due to them being council employees.
- Limited staff may have the opportunity to gain employment at Hetton Primary, but it will not be all, especially the leaders, so viral expertise will be lost.
- I'm not planning on sending my daughter to Hetton Primary for their primary education. There seems to be an assumption that children will just move across to this new provision. Where is parental choice?
- I was extremely concerned around hearing about asbestos and the additional money spent on reconfiguring the building, rather than making use of the already established nursery.
- The council is allocating in excess of 5 million on a new build. In the consultation report it mentions further funds to be spent on ICT, furniture, and demolition, which is predicted to be in the region of £2-£12 million. The council will not clear the nursery deficit or provide adequate funding. Leaders and governors have worked extremely hard to balance the budget in difficult circumstances.
- It has been acknowledged in documented meetings that the financial vulnerability of the Nursery is not due to mismanagement of funds but due to the methodology behind the funding formula and the unavoidable costs associated with a Maintained Nursery School.
- Funding decisions about Maintained Nursery Schools have not been made by parliament and the government is urging local authorities to hold off making decisions about their longer-term futures.
- The council are arguing that the nursery has a deficit of up to £200,000 that they do not have the capacity to clear and they cannot support financially moving forward. They also say that the nursery is de-stabilising the other maintained nurseries because of the lower contribution and higher outtake of the lump sum. The main reason put forward for this closure is financial, however there are significant underspends in both the Early Years Inclusion Funding and Pupil Funding budgets. The combined underspend in the last three years amounts to £4,014,000.

- Such underspends have resulted in a direct impact on the budgets and survival of all of the Maintained Nursery Schools. The council could utilise those underspent funds to save the maintained nursery sector in Sunderland, who are currently being disadvantaged by surplus funds not being used effectively.
- The local authority is yet to provide the governors or parents with alternative options that they have considered before planning a full closure. In discussions with the school and governors it was made clear there are no alternatives, despite leaders being open to suggestions.
- DFE guidance states that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget position.
- Nursery Schools are required to provide high quality early education, led by specialist headteachers, and delivered by qualified teachers especially in deprived areas and to put parents and families at the centre of their work. DFE guidance (November 2019) stipulates that the decision-maker should give the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools. The pre consultation received 541 responses, in which 92% of those responding did not agree with plans to close the nursery.
- In the government guidance for opening and closing maintained schools it also makes it clear that proposers should be aware that decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools. It states:
- Nursery schools are expected to operate in a competitive market without having the same freedoms as their private sector competitors. Sunderland City Council has permitted unfair competition by allowing a private nursery to open within 0.5 miles of the nursery. The market for early years provision in Hetton is already inundated with providers. Hetton Primary nursery will be within 0.5 miles of Hetton Lyons Nursery School, will this have a similar effect on their fate?
- The plan allows the only Ofsted graded outstanding nursery in Hetton-le-Hole to be lost in the interest of short-term cost saving. The long-term impact of the lump sum being shared amongst the other maintained nursery schools will be insignificant.
- You may like to refer to school performance data. The nursery has consistent outstanding data year on year. Children make outstanding progress from their starting points and leave at or above age-related expectations. Data on all local schools will be shared.
- There appears to be a lack of consultation with the community.
- The nursery provided extra support and care for a child – medical, family, or additional needs.
- Research shows that Maintained Nursery Schools provide a better quality of education.

Regards

From:

Sent: 16 March 2021 09:20

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery Closure

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Objection

I would like to object against the closure of Hetton le hole nursery school.

As a parent of a past pupil I can only state how amazing the nursery has been and what an intelligent, well rounded child they have helped to shape by giving my daughter an amazing start in life.

We choose a maintained nursery school as we felt the school style structure with highly qualified staff worked for us. The nursery has great parking facilities, a lovely

Garden and outdoor learning space and they also make use of the hetton lake area for outdoor learning.

The outstanding ofsted report for the nursery confirms how exceptional the setting is.

We have another child now which we would like to give the same opportunity to. She will be starting at the nursery in September. On our recommendation we have another couple of friends who would be choosing the nursery too.

I understand funding is a massive issue but in a month, the parents and teachers have managed, through limited fundraising avenues available to raise over £3000- a quarter of this years predicted in year deficit. That's some show of passion. When everything reopens, I understand the nursery are committed to fundraising events and advertising to help boost the funds and therefore lower the deficit.

As this loss was inherited, surely an agreement could be drawn up. I understand the council have stated they have explored other avenues but we are unclear what those avenues are.

It takes no rocket scientist to consider raising the fees by 50p an hour to put the nursery in line with others in the area would boost the income considerably, just by one simple Change.

For us, there are other nurseries I could choose for convenience, closer to my home, closer to my daughters school and even a feeder nursery for my daughters primary school, but still I would choose Hetton le Hole nursery school simply because it's outstanding and incomparable to the others in the area.

We hope you can reconsider as it really would be a crying shame to lose a valuable part of the community

Regards

From:

Sent: 16 March 2021 10:15

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton Le Hole Nursery School - Objection to closure

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to stress my deep concerns over your proposal to close the above Nursery.

My first child, attended the nursery from 9 months old, through to primary school.

My second child has attended since 9 months old, and still has a full term 2021/22 remaining at the nursery before he attends primary school in 2022/23.

I can't stress enough how much my children love this nursery, they both have benefited so much from attending, and I am at a lost to where Jude will go next year if the nursery will close.

I feel like no thought has been taken into account for the wellbeing of these children, especially given what's going on in the world currently, and what they have all been through this last year. Taking my child out of the nursery for his final year will have a major detrimental effect on him, taking him away from his norm, his friends, and more importantly his teachers, who have given him so much love and attention making him the child he is today.

I understand that the nursery has been running at a deficit the last year, which is why this is being pushed through. But I can't help that there is something underlying which you aren't being clear and upfront on.

- There has been a major lack of consultation in the community, which is so wrong given that the nursery has been at the heart of the community since 1945!

- We aren't the only nursery running at a deficit, there are others in the Sunderland Area.

- Why can't more funds be allocated to ease this deficit, we aren't talking big figures, given that there has been a combined underspend of £4m over the last 3 years?

Where is this money going, surely there is people in charge to allocate this budget fairly, especially if there is money available to utilise.

- I also raised the point about Furlough funding for the nursery, and that the nursery were advised against claiming CJRS funding. You need to take a clear look at the rules, as the nursery CAN claim the % of the non-funded wages (Based on funded v non-funded income). The nursery still received the funded allocation (Which covers part of the staff costs) but what about the non-funded income which naturally dried up.

That's the whole point of the CJRS. To help cover the staff wages (Non-funded element).

This again hasn't been addressed properly from the council's end, vital funding is available to help businesses through this pandemic, this nursery has had no funding at all. Instead you use the additional costs incurred by the nursery to add to the deficit.

- Why are you trying to push this through so quickly, it's just wrong. The government itself are urging councils to hold off making decisions on their futures given what is going on. Also reading into the DFE guidance, they advise that nurseries should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget. What other reasons do you have for closure??

It's outstanding grading?!?

The list of objections could go on.....

I am so annoyed that you are even considering this and really fear for the wellbeing of my 3 year old child given that his routine will be smashed into pieces, all his friends and teachers taken away from him, and have to be placed in a totally unfamiliar surroundings for his final year in nursery. Happy days ahead!

Kind regards,

From:

Sent: 16 March 2021 10:18

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton Nursery School

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Hi,

Just want to air my dissatisfaction at the proposed closure of Hetton Nursery School.

Please can you give them an extra year to try and turn things around.

Hetton Nursery has a wonderful building and it is a local employer. Please can you give them an extra year to turn things around financially.

Kind regards

From:

Sent: 16 March 2021 11:03

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk; andrewadey@gmail.com

Subject: Save Hetton Nursery School!

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

To whom it may concern,

We are writing this email in the hope that as a community we can prevent the closure of Hetton Nursery School.

My husband and I, have a 2.5 year old little girl who attends the nursery and who has flourished in her time here. Albeit we experienced the Covid -19 Pandemic, but [REDACTED] is now part way through her nursery transition and having to start at a new nursery would have a major impact of her emotional wellbeing. Both children and parents have suffered immensely as a result of the Covid – 19 pandemic and do not need this type of upheaval, when as a world we are trying to obtain some normality, it is imprudent that the council would want take away that normality for both children, their families and staff involved. A question which is been asked by many; The Council has not provided any Covid-19 relief funds to the despite having received many millions of pounds from central government. Where did this money go? Why was part of this funding not distributed to this nursery?

[REDACTED] nursery journey began in November 2019. Initially we had chosen a different nursery (closer to home) but they had let us down and we did not feel this was right for [REDACTED]. So as a family we contacted Hetton Nursery School. On our first visit – we just were overwhelmed by the feeling that this was the right nursery for her. Despite the travel time, this was the best place her to be. Since November we have seen her grow into confident, sociable little girl who absolutely adores the nursery team and her time there. As a family, the staff and wider team are outstanding in their approach to the children and we know when [REDACTED] is at nursery she is safe and supported.

As a key worker, working on the front line during both the first and second wave of the pandemic, the nursery went above and beyond to support us as a family and accommodate [REDACTED] in attending nursery. This gave peace of mind that we could continue to go to work and help fight this horrific virus. The staff have put themselves on the front line so that many of the nation's key workers can continue to work, often leaving their own families at home. The response to local outbreaks have been outstanding and the use of childcare bubbles have meant that [REDACTED] has not missed any time at nursery.

As a family we are devastated that the Council would want to close a nursery which is the only early years provision/ nursery that is graded as outstanding by Ofsted. No other setting currently can match the standard of the provision provided. Not only this but the Nursery is at the heart of the community and [REDACTED]s has grandparents who attend this nursery, along with other family members, who speak so highly of their time there. Why would the council want to close this Nursery which is an important part of both history and the future and has supported children growing into highly successful individuals. It seems ludicrous.

Please consider this email (although we know it will be one of many you receive) and keep Hetton Nursery School open.

Think what you would do if these were your children/ families who face such upheaval in an already unfamiliar world in which we are trying to cling to some familiarity.

Please save our Nursery and support our community.

Yours Sincerely

From:

Sent: 16 March 2021 12:26

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth Williamson <ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton Le Hole Nursery Closure Consultation

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

This email is to show my strong opposition against the closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery School. My eldest child attended this provision from the age of 1.5 to 4 years and it was simply a better education than I could have dreamt of. My child made fantastic progress, was completely prepared for the next stage in her school life and not only developed educationally but socially and emotionally due to the skilled and dedicated staff who worked with her. Having sent my daughter elsewhere as a baby, we were told about this provision and after visiting there was simply no other option than to travel out of my local area to get my daughter the best start in her school life. I am so pleased I made this decision. I have never (and highly doubt I will ever) come across a provision which develops the whole child so effectively and has an inclusive approach where every child thrives and reaches (and often exceeds) their potential.

My youngest child is also due to attend this setting. I am now absolutely devastated that this may not be the case. I have investigated nearby alternatives and ones further afield and nothing comes close to Hetton Le Hole Nursery. The suggestion of putting my child in a demountable in a Primary school which has never had experience of nursery provision previously, is simply unacceptable when compared to what Hetton Le Hole Nursery offers. Their Ofsted reports, environment and the skills of the staff are significantly above any alternative I have and I am now going to be forced to give my youngest child a poorer start in comparison to that which my eldest had. I am so worried that my little one will not be nurtured and educated to the same standard and this will impact negatively on the rest of her life, limiting her future opportunities. All because the Local Authority and government are not providing sufficient support and funding to ensure the best provision in the area can continue to have such a positive impact on the lives of our children.

The main reason being put forward by the council for the closure of this outstanding nursery is around financial stability and due to the fact the nursery has a deficit of up to £200,000 that they do not have the capacity to clear and they cannot support financially moving forward. How can the council not have the funds to support our nursery when there have been significant underspends in both the Early Years Inclusion Funding and Pupil Funding budgets? The combined underspend in the last three years amounts to £4,014,000. This money which has not been spent, could have been used to clear the deficit of this nursery and allow the continuation of outstanding results for our children and children of the future within Hetton le Hole. In addition to this, the DfE clearly states that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely due to a deficit budget. This amazing Nursery cannot be ruined as a result of poor budget management from Sunderland City Council. This is completely unfair on our children and the fantastically hardworking staff in the nursery.

Furthermore, the pre-consultation received 541 responses, in which 92% of those responding did not agree with plans to close the nursery. It is clear that this decision is not one that is right for the community, for the families or for the staff of Hetton Le Hole Nursery. I cannot see any reason why this outstanding nursery should face closure given the fact that there is surplus funding in the council budget allocated for this (and other) provisions which could eradicate the deficit and support all maintained nurseries to move forward successfully. Our community needs this nursery and we ask your support to keep it open for our children and for our growing community.

On top of all of this, this has been brought about in the middle of a global pandemic. Further stress has been brought to my family because of this proposal. The staff who are working tirelessly to educate the children to the highest standard, who are no doubt worried about their own health and that of the children and their families, now have the threat of losing their jobs and their livelihoods to worry about too. Not to mention the Headteacher who has worked so hard to develop this outstanding provision, develop her staff, make wonderful relationships with the families and has had to maintain this through the pandemic.

Please do not allow Hetton Le Hole Nursery to close. It is an outstanding provision in which the children of Hetton le Hole (and beyond) deserve to have access to. Our children and children of the future will significantly benefit from this amazing start to their school life and there is simply no alternative that can match the quality offered by Hetton le Hole Nursery.

Yours faithfully,

From:

Sent: 16 March 2021 13:53

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: closure of hetton-le-hole nursery

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

As a parent of a current pupil at hetton-le-hole nursery I strongly oppose the closure for a number of reasons; As a key worker for the ambulance service I rely on the government funded childcare offered outside normal term time at hetton-le-hole nursery, something that won't be available from Hetton Primary.

I had no intention on sending my child to Hetton Primary and it distresses me that the council would even consider closing a nursery such as hetton-le-hole, with its huge outdoor space and outstanding ofsted report, without any actual building or facilities to accommodate the needs of children under school age.

Sadly it appears the only reason for closure is financial. More consideration should be given to 89% of pupils who left hetton-le-hole nursery meeting age related expectations in 2019 due to the dedication and expertise of the staff. Plus, the overwhelming response from Hetton as a community, 92% of the 500+ responses opposed the closure and already in just a few weeks we have raised more than £3000 in fundraising.

Please reconsider the closure, this year has already been challenging enough without this added strain to staff, parents and MOST importantly the children.

Thank you

16th March 2021

To whom it may concern

I am writing this in relation to the consultation of closing down Hetton Nursery School in which I would like to state I am **AGAINST** the proposed closure for the following reasons:

My niece attended this nursery from being only a few months old and her parents made the decision to keep her there until she transitioned to a Primary school at aged 5 years old. My niece was 10 weeks early and spent the

first 2 months of her life in neonatal care due to being premature. Her time at the nursery not only enabled my niece who was extremely small to grow, develop and flourish in not just meeting but exceeding her educational milestones and this was down to the dedicated and highly trained staff at this nursery. As a parent who didn't know for the first few months whether their child was going to survive to then hand over their precious daughter to strangers was a huge step, yet the staff here made my sister feel safe and supported to do such a thing.

This provision is OFSTED rated Outstanding, I work within Education in a neighbouring local authority and know how hard it is to get this rating initially but then to maintain this takes pure commitment and dedication from all staff starting with the head teacher. This nursery school has designated teachers and trained staff in SEND which most nurseries do not have, I am aware that a lot of families who are presently paying for their child to attend this nursery do so because of these attributes.

Early Years research states the importance of the first five years of a child's life, the current children attending this nursery have quite frankly been put through quite an ordeal this last year due to the Covid pandemic and this will have had an effect on their emotional wellbeing as well as their education, a move to a building site where their environment, staffing, routine and possible friendship group changes, could have a long lasting effect on not only the children but also their families. Placing children in temporary classrooms for at least a year is not good enough and I would be interested to know how much this will cost? Are you telling me this will be cheaper to run than the existing provision and what will you be offering in ways of outdoor play when they are being educated on a building site? Ventilation and outdoor play is extremely important in these current times of a global pandemic, that is without taking into consideration the concerns regarding the findings of asbestos on the new site and the implications this has including additional cost!

The impact on staff will be just as severe, not knowing what the future holds regarding their own jobs but being expected to continue to work through the pandemic to offer a continued service to the children. Sunderland Council has not provided any Covid-19 relief funds to the nursery despite having received many millions of pounds from central government. The Nursery has incurred £76,000 of Covid-19 losses this year; however, despite this the closing deficit (in year) was £58,449. Limited staff may have the opportunity to gain employment at Hetton Primary, but it will not be all, especially the leaders, so expertise will be lost.

The council is allocating in excess of 5 million on a new build. In the consultation report, it mentions further funds to be spent on resources and demolition, which is predicted to be in the region of £2-£12 million. Sunderland council will not clear the nursery deficit or provide adequate funding. Leaders and governors have worked extremely hard to balance the budget in difficult circumstances.

Year on year budget cuts have been made to the nursery funding, making it impossible for it to be financially stable. The leadership team have completed extensive restructures and the head teacher has taken on many roles to reduce costs. I am aware that it has been acknowledged in documented meetings that the financial vulnerability of the Nursery is not due to mismanagement of funds but due to the methodology behind the funding formula and the unavoidable costs associated with a Maintained Nursery School. Funding decisions about Maintained Nursery Schools have not been made by parliament and the government is urging local authorities to hold off making decisions about their longer-term futures, so therefore why is Sunderland Council trying to push through the closure of this Outstanding Nursery. A nursery that offers places for 0-5 years whereas the new site will only offer places for 2-5 years. Can you explain where the existing 0-2 years will go, not to mention the children whose families were planning on using these spaces in the future.

The council are arguing that the nursery has a deficit that they do not have the capacity to clear and they cannot support financially moving forward. The main reason put forward for this closure is financial, however there are significant underspends in both the Early Years Inclusion Funding and Pupil Funding budgets. The combined underspend in the last three years amounts to £4,014,000. Why has none of this underspend been considered to clear the deficit so that the current staff team can start a fresh and prove to Sunderland Council that they can be financially stable. I am aware of other schools that have run in deficit and this has been done, so I see no reason as to why they cannot be given the same opportunity. DfE guidance states that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget position; if this is not the case can you clearly explain the reasoning for this closure? It states in Government guidance in any closure of a maintained nursery school the provision should demonstrate that new provision should be offering at least equal places and quality and that it should be more accessible to parents. I am aware that this is not the case, as stated earlier no 0-2 year's provision will be available and the new site has been spoken about numerous times due to the high level of traffic and accidents that have occurred in this area. The Local Authority is yet to provide the governors or parents with alternative options that they have considered before planning a full closure. In discussions with the school and governors, it was made clear there are no alternatives, despite leaders being open to suggestions.

The council's plan allows the only OFSTED rated outstanding nursery in Hetton to be lost in the interest of short-term cost saving. This nursery has consistent outstanding data evidencing that the children attending this nursery make outstanding progress from their starting points and leave at or above age-related expectations. My niece is

evidence of this currently seen as a Gifted & Talented pupil in her primary school, and the school staff stating that this is partially down to the excellent start she had in her life attending the nursery you propose to close.

The community cohesion is immense and has brought not only the people of Hetton together but also families who live outside of the area wanting to show their support. They have shown passion, commitment and sheer determination to help in the quest to save the nursery. Parents have put together a financial plan to improve the nursery's situation, however they have not been allowed to share this plan with the council as of yet. They have also raised funds in the region of £3,000 in a short number of weeks. The community feels that it should be allowed time to try and turn this situation around before such a major proposal is undertaken. The local Hetton Town Council have shown continued professional support and have listened attentively to their local community in trying to get a fair and consistent hearing when it comes to discussing the future of this nursery.

This nursery is at the heart of the community and has been established since 1945. This was the first ever Maintained Nursery School in Sunderland, I had the pleasure of doing some of my training here as a Nursery Nurse in 1990-91 and it enabled me to progress into a profession that I see as a vocation not just a job! I have continued to climb through my profession throughout the past 29 years working with children and families within various roles and there is nothing more rewarding than playing a part in seeing children and their families grow into inspiring young people, adults and eventually parents themselves. These small people are our future and they are depending on us the local people to fight for what is right and that is to continue to keep open this Educational establishment that is far exceeding the needs of the children & families they are working with. They are not only their teachers, but are also their caregivers, nurturers, supporters, counsellors, speech therapists, physiotherapists, cooks, nutritionists, mentors the list goes on....

The government introduced Maintained Nursery Schools to combine a multitude of services, which were designed to improve the life chances of young children, with a particular focus on the poorest families, in areas of deprivation. Family members have attended and are now highly successful because of the excellent foundation they received from the nursery.

I urge Sunderland Council to rethink their plans, listen to the people who live, eat and breath this nursery, find a way to work together in partnership, do not throw away 76 years of quality education all because of a deficit that could be easily salvaged if given a chance.

From:

Sent: 16 March 2021 15:53

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>; ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland

Subject: Closure of Hetton le Hole nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Hello My name is [REDACTED] and I wish to formally Object to the potential closure of our amazing nursery. May I Start by thanking you all for taking the time to read this correspondence And I hope that you and your familys are staying safe .I've Struggle To find the words that would aritically Described how I'm feeling I dont envy the task that you all have in front of you today. I started on this journey back in November When Infomation came to light that our nursery had a financial deficit I suppose it easy for people like me to throw stones at decision Makers Like yourself And I must admit I've done that over the last couple of months And its not because I hold any personal malice It's just frustration To see our community destroyed. I could spend all day writing pages upon pages of all the rights and wrongs To no Avail I'm sure you will receive many responses with facts and figures. I would rather focus on the core principles of the labour party individuals councillors And general humanity itself.

As we are all acutely aware The global pandemic that has ruled over our lives for the last 12 months Has destroyed communities families Wiped out loved ones with no discriminations Has been like living through Hell (if hell is such a place) . I can't describe the extra amount of pressure that sunderland city council Has Inflected on its very community its meant to protect. I feel it has been a businesses as usual approach Which the world that I live in right now Is definitely not the same . Today you will make decisions Based on information that sits on a spreadsheet With an attitude as it's not working it can't be fixed Well in fact it can be fixed I'm sure many of you on the committee Over the years have come up against similar problems Trying to balance the books And I sympathise with the difficulties That 10 years of Tory Austerity Has brought to our

region . But if I know one thing in my heart of hearts none of you came in to local Authority To close nursery schools down. Some of labour's core principles are to pick people up when they're down offer a hand of solidarity in times of need Give comfort to people on the hope tomorrow will be a better day. These core principles have never changed all the way back to the likes of the suffragettes In their struggles And it's thanks to the early Union movement we now have well established unions today labour don't walk away from the challenge labour don't close things with the swipe of a pen Labour find a way Surely these principles have not changed that much over the years.

Judging by information that has come out of the DFE A new funding formula will be reached at some time in the Spring for all early years settings. So what am I asking of you all today on this committee Find it in your heart to say no to closure say no Uncertainty Say no to psychological problems That will impact members of staff in children See no to the Tory way . See yes to the core principles that you wall started your journeys many years ago to make your community better stronger fairer for all. Sunderland has launch some amazing projects recently transforming our City as we know it today dont start this year Closing amazing nurseries give our children staff parents community security and stability in these uncertain times Work with the community to make this nursery financially Sustainable I dont except there is no way Sometimes in life the tunnel in front of you is blocked But the labour party that I was brought up around Wood smash right through that tunnel. Sunderland council have a campaign Talk to us tell us your views . The community are talking are you listening!!!!

In summary our nursery has been around for 76 years It has gone Through 14 prime ministers Supported the community during the miners strikels actually older than the NHS itself. This nursery is part of hetton and hetton is part of the nursery side by side For generations I Beg with you all Don't turn your back on hetton nursery In its Hour of need Come together with us in solidarity Friendship and understanding that tomorrow can and will be a better day.

Kind regards

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 16 March 2021 19:38

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le hole nursery

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To whom it may concern,

I wish to put forth my reasons below why I am against the proposed closure of Hetton le Hole nursery. Please see below.

- I have a niece who is attending the nursery.
- There is no other setting I feel can meet the needs of my niece as well as Hetton-le-Hole Nursery does.
- Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is the only early years provision/ nursery that is graded as outstanding by Ofsted. No other setting currently can match the standard of the provision provided.
- The nursery has a qualified SENDco who is an early year's specialist and is able to support all children who have additional needs to make outstanding progress during their time at nursery .My niece has progressed amazingly because of this vital support.
- Children and parents have suffered immensely as a result of the Covid pandemic and do not need this type of upheaval. It's not fair or just.

- The Council has not provided any Covid-19 relief funds to the nursery despite having received many millions of pounds from central government. The Nursery has incurred £76,000 of Covid-19 losses this year, however despite this the closing deficit (in year) was £58,449. The nursery was unable to furlough staff due to them being council employees.
- Limited staff may have the opportunity to gain employment at Hetton Primary, but it will not be all, especially the leaders, so viral expertise will be lost.
- There seems to be an assumption that children will just move across to this new provision. Where is parental choice?
- I was extremely concerned around hearing about asbestos and the additional money spent on reconfiguring the building, rather than making use of the already established nursery.
- The council is allocating in excess of 5 million on a new build. In the consultation report it mentions further funds to be spent on ICT, furniture, and demolition, which is predicted to be in the region of £2-£12 million. The council will not clear the nursery deficit or provide adequate funding. Leaders and governors have worked extremely hard to balance the budget in difficult circumstances.
- It has been acknowledged in documented meetings that the financial vulnerability of the Nursery is not due to mismanagement of funds but due to the methodology behind the funding formula and the unavoidable costs associated with a Maintained Nursery School.
- Funding decisions about Maintained Nursery Schools have not been made by parliament and the government is urging local authorities to hold off making decisions about their longer-term futures.
- The council are arguing that the nursery has a deficit of up to £200,000 that they do not have the capacity to clear and they cannot support financially moving forward. They also say that the nursery is de-stabilising the other maintained nurseries because of the lower contribution and higher outtake of the lump sum. The main reason put forward for this closure is financial, however there are significant underspends in both the Early Years Inclusion Funding and Pupil Funding budgets. The combined underspend in the last three years amounts to £4,014,000.
- Such underspends have resulted in a direct impact on the budgets and survival of all of the Maintained Nursery Schools. The council could utilise those underspent funds to save the maintained nursery sector in Sunderland, who are currently being disadvantaged by surplus funds not being used effectively.
- The local authority is yet to provide the governors or parents with alternative options that they have considered before planning a full closure. In discussions with the school and governors it was made clear there are no alternatives, despite leaders being open to suggestions.
- DFE guidance states that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget position.
- Nursery Schools are required to provide high quality early education, led by specialist headteachers, and delivered by qualified teachers especially in deprived areas and to put parents and families at the centre of their work. DFE guidance (November 2019) stipulates that the decision-maker should give the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools. The pre consultation received 541 responses, in which 92% of those responding did not agree with plans to close the nursery.
- In the government guidance for opening and closing maintained schools it also makes it clear that proposers should be aware that decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools. It states:
- Nursery schools are expected to operate in a competitive market without having the same freedoms as their private sector competitors. Sunderland City Council has permitted unfair competition by allowing a private nursery to open within 0.5 miles of the nursery. The market for early years provision in Hetton is already inundated with providers. Hetton Primary nursery will be within 0.5 miles of Hetton Lyons Nursery School, will this have a similar effect on their fate?
- The plan allows the only Ofsted graded outstanding nursery in Hetton-le-Hole to be lost in the interest of short-term cost saving. The long-term impact of the lump sum being shared amongst the other maintained nursery schools will be insignificant.
- You may like to refer to school performance data. The nursery has consistent outstanding data year on year. Children make outstanding progress from their starting points and leave at or above age-related expectations. Data on all local schools will be shared.
- There appears to be a lack of consultation with the community.
- The nursery provided extra support and care for a child – medical, family, or additional needs.
- Research shows that Maintained Nursery Schools provide a better quality of education.

Regards

From:

Sent: 16 March 2021 19:38

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le Hole nursery

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To whom it may concern,

I wish to put forth my reasons below why I am against the proposed closure of Hetton le Hole nursery. Please see below.

- I have a grandchild who is attending the nursery.
- There is no other setting I feel can meet the needs of my granddaughter as well as Hetton-le-Hole Nursery does.
- Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is the only early years provision/ nursery that is graded as outstanding by Ofsted. No other setting currently can match the standard of the provision provided.
- The nursery has a qualified SENDco who is an early year's specialist and is able to support all children who have additional needs to make outstanding progress during their time at nursery. My granddaughter has progressed amazingly because of this vital support.
- Children and parents have suffered immensely as a result of the Covid pandemic and do not need this type of upheaval. It's not fair or just.
- The Council has not provided any Covid-19 relief funds to the nursery despite having received many millions of pounds from central government. The Nursery has incurred £76,000 of Covid-19 losses this year, however despite this the closing deficit (in year) was £58,449. The nursery was unable to furlough staff due to them being council employees.
- Limited staff may have the opportunity to gain employment at Hetton Primary, but it will not be all, especially the leaders, so vital expertise will be lost.
- I was extremely concerned around hearing about asbestos and the additional money spent on reconfiguring the building, rather than making use of the already established nursery.
- The council is allocating in excess of 5 million on a new build. In the consultation report it mentions further funds to be spent on ICT, furniture, and demolition, which is predicted to be in the region of £2-£12 million. The council will not clear the nursery deficit or provide adequate funding. Leaders and governors have worked extremely hard to balance the budget in difficult circumstances.
- It has been acknowledged in documented meetings that the financial vulnerability of the Nursery is not due to mismanagement of funds but due to the methodology behind the funding formula and the unavoidable costs associated with a Maintained Nursery School.
- Funding decisions about Maintained Nursery Schools have not been made by parliament and the government is urging local authorities to hold off making decisions about their longer-term futures.
- The council are arguing that the nursery has a deficit of up to £200,000 that they do not have the capacity to clear and they cannot support financially moving forward. They also say that the nursery is de-stabilising the

other maintained nurseries because of the lower contribution and higher outtake of the lump sum. The main reason put forward for this closure is financial, however there are significant underspends in both the Early Years Inclusion Funding and Pupil Funding budgets. The combined underspend in the last three years amounts to £4,014,000.

- Such underspends have resulted in a direct impact on the budgets and survival of all of the Maintained Nursery Schools. The council could utilise those underspent funds to save the maintained nursery sector in Sunderland, who are currently being disadvantaged by surplus funds not being used effectively.
- The local authority is yet to provide the governors or parents with alternative options that they have considered before planning a full closure. In discussions with the school and governors it was made clear there are no alternatives, despite leaders being open to suggestions.
- DFE guidance states that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget position.
- Nursery Schools are required to provide high quality early education, led by specialist headteachers, and delivered by qualified teachers especially in deprived areas and to put parents and families at the centre of their work. DFE guidance (November 2019) stipulates that the decision-maker should give the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools. The pre consultation received 541 responses, in which 92% of those responding did not agree with plans to close the nursery.
- In the government guidance for opening and closing maintained schools it also makes it clear that proposers should be aware that decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools. It states:

The market for early years provision in Hetton is already inundated with providers. Hetton Primary nursery will be within 0.5 miles of Hetton Lyons Nursery School, will this have a similar effect on their fate?

- The plan allows the only Ofsted graded outstanding nursery in Hetton-le-Hole to be lost in the interest of short-term cost saving. The long-term impact of the lump sum being shared amongst the other maintained nursery schools will be insignificant.
- You may like to refer to school performance data. The nursery has consistent outstanding data year on year. Children make outstanding progress from their starting points and leave at or above age-related expectations. Data on all local schools will be shared.
- There appears to be a lack of consultation with the community.
- The nursery provided extra support and care for a child – medical, family, or additional needs.
- Research shows that Maintained Nursery Schools provide a better quality of education.

Regards

From:

Sent: 17 March 2021 10:13

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Proposed closure of Hetton Nursery

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I am deeply upset and angry to hear of the proposed closure of Hetton Nursery. They are Hetton's hidden gem, having served our community since 1940's.

My son attended this nursery, there were closer ones, within walking distance but I chose Hetton because of their reputation to be the best. They are the only ones in our area with Ofsted outstanding rating. I am sure you will know this is difficult to achieve and maintain. Surely this speaks for itself how fantastic they are. It makes no sense to close it! When the children leave Hetton Nursery their standard of learning is higher than peers who have attended others in the area.

My son is severely autistic. He is non verbal, Hetton Nursery provided recordable talking buttons so that he had a voice and was able to communicate his needs. Hetton Nursery have a sensory room which proved invaluable to him. He accessed it everyday so that he could self regulate before joining everybody else. The staff understood his needs. Having a qualified SENDCO and early years specialist at Hetton is what makes this nursery stand apart from the rest.

They always gave him the very best care and kept him safe. This was no small feat as he had limited understanding and had to be watched constantly. (He had tried to pour water onto the electrics and on another occasion tried to stand on an outdoor guinea pig cage). I was never made to feel my son was a nuisance, quite the opposite. The atmosphere is very much a home from home, safe, educational environment.

Ruth Williamson worked hard to help Josh get an EHCP (I'm sure beyond her working hours). This legal document meant my son could go to a specialised school. The EHCP process is an absolute nightmare to go through with no guarantee of success but Ruth and her team did it. I will never forget that day when I turned up at the office with the letter in my hand, there were tears from the staff. They were as joyous and relieved as I was. I was supported the whole way through the process from beginning to end.

You cannot pay people to care but the staff at Hetton Nursery do, they need to stay open.

From:

Sent: 17 March 2021 10:20

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth Williamson <Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection to proposed closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

My name is Rebecca Hill, and I am the Teacher at Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School. I am writing to you to fully object to the proposed closure of the nursery. The following are my reasons for objecting to this proposed closure:

1. The nursery is rated 'outstanding' and is the only one in Hetton. I do acknowledge that our Main Nursery provision is rated 'good', however in our last short visit, myself and my team were observed and received immediate feedback that our teaching was outstanding. We would be given the opportunity to upgrade our judgement in the subsequent inspection which would be within the next 2 terms. Unfortunately, the ongoing pandemic paused all inspection activity thus causing us to miss out on this. I feel like the closure would have a detrimental impact on the quality of education offered to the children in Hetton, particularly those most vulnerable. Our data outcomes are outstanding, with all children making exceptional progress from their starting points, exiting in line with age-related expectations when they leave us for school. The nursery truly gives all children the best start to their education. Furthermore, as a Maintained Nursery School we are subject to a rigorous Ofsted inspection similar to those in Primary Schools.
2. As the wellbeing champion of the school, I have seen the detrimental impact of the pandemic for both children and staff alike. As a school, this year our main priority has been to support mental health and wellbeing. This has been a difficult process with recurrent lockdowns and disruptions, but staff have persevered through their own difficulties and stress relating to this

proposed closure to provide the best education and nurturing care for the children. If the school closes, the disruption to both families and children will be immeasurable. Some of the children I teach and care for only see myself and the team, and the family they live with. I have heard stories of how they have cried when they have seen their aunties who they haven't seen since Covid began. The continuity for these children must continue, in order for them to recover from the emotional trauma that this pandemic has caused them. For the youngest children, this pandemic has enveloped from a quarter to the whole of their lives. This is harrowing and they do not deserve further disruption.

3. The nursery acts as a hub for the community, this is outlined as a role of Maintained Nursery Schools following the closure of Children's Centres due to funding cuts. We provide support for families and offer services to support them. In my time as Teacher, I have had the pleasure of closely supporting families who need it most. The closure of the nursery will impact on those vulnerable families who need our provision.
4. Our falling pupil numbers coincide with the opening of a PVI nursery in Hetton-le-Hole in 2016. This setting is merely 0.2 miles away, and is situated on the main road so has increased visibility compared to our school which is tucked away in amongst the streets. In the proposal it states that our numbers began to fall in September 2016, this highlights the immediate impact that the opening of this PVI had on school admissions. Furthermore, the proposal document also admits that numbers across Hetton-le-Hole fell during these periods; it is safe to assume that this PVI setting impacted upon them also. This PVI setting should not have been able to open, especially when there were adequate places for children across the whole of Hetton-le-Hole from the current providers.
5. Additionally, there appears to be a lack of consultation with settings in Hetton-le-Hole regarding the opening of the new nursery provision in Hetton Primary School. Is there not a duty to involve schools in such huge decisions which directly affect them in such a substantial way? With new settings opening, and Alan Rowan admitting that birth rates are 'spiky', what is the direction that the council is heading in? Surely all settings will have low pupil numbers which has an impact on their sustainability and further closures of established settings.
6. It has been argued that parents would prefer a 'whole through' approach with single drop offs. We have parents whose older children attend a school with an attached nursery yet make the choice to send their children here as they are happy with the education and care we provide. It appears that parental choice has been disregarded in this proposal with options being given to parents as to where their children can attend. This particularly impacts upon toddlers and 4 and 5 term children who would continue their educational journey with us following September 2021.
7. In the proposal, it is stated that the expertise of staff will be transferred to the new Hetton Primary nursery. However, during the meeting on Thursday 11th March, it was made clear that the school already has staff with the appropriate expertise. This insinuates that there are no plans to relocate our staff team. During this pandemic, there is a lot of anxiety and uncertainty. The closure will displace staff, who may not be able to find further employment. Redundancy is a shallow option, which can only support them for a very limited time. For myself, teaching is an extremely competitive job market and it took me years to gain my Newly Qualified Teacher post. The staff need security in these challenging times and the closure will result in the loss of expertise across Hetton-le-Hole.
8. It is disheartening to hear that Sunderland City Council currently has an underspend of 4.14 million pounds in the Early Years. What makes this particularly distressing is the underspend in Early Years Inclusion Funding. I am the SEND practitioner of the school and I have had children with profound needs have their applications refused by the panel resulting in us having to support them ourselves. I hope you can appreciate the fact we are in a deficit and we are 'financially unviable' therefore we have had to utilise support for these children ourselves. Surely underspent funds could be used to support the Maintained Nursery School sector in Sunderland to ensure their longevity?

9. Our deficit has been largely publicised and teaching in a deficit is difficult. Due to the deficit, we have had to provide a high quality of education with very little money. Personally, I have spent money on resources, so the children I teach have the very best education. Why close the nursery when we have been able to do this for numerous years? Some parents came up with ideas to help improve the deficit, which included increasing the hourly rate by 50p, which would still remain a competitive price amongst providers in Hetton-le-Hole. It is unfortunate that these alternative options have not been entertained. I would welcome these alternative options as a means to save the school.
10. Maintained Nursery Schools in Sunderland are a benchmark of educational excellence, offering education to those most deprived. It was most upsetting to witness the closure of Millfield Nursery School and it feels like the council are looking to close them all. The nursery schools in Sunderland work closely together within a supportive group known as the PiP (Partners in Pedagogy). We provide training to settings, peer mentoring sessions and mentor trainee teachers, which I myself have been involved in this year. To close the school would impact on the dissemination of pedagogy and skill to other settings to improve education across the city.
11. In the pre-consultation, which was taken to cabinet before it has concluded, 92% of respondents disagreed with the proposal. It is safe to say, that the local community does not agree with this proposal, so why did it go to formal consultation. I would speculate that there is an ulterior motive.
12. I have read on numerous occasions that all alternative options have been considered to save the nursery. However, these have not been shared despite being requested by the Headteacher. Why have these not been discussed. I'm sure that an agreement could have been made to secure the nursery, especially when Alan Rowan has repeatedly praised the quality of education and the staff team.
13. Despite this proposal to close we have had new admissions, with numerous admissions to our Main Nursery provision. Parents are still choosing to send their children to our nursery, and I believe that speaks for itself in this situation.

In conclusion, to close this school would have detrimental effects on many different stakeholders. I urge you to consider my objections. Why close a well established, high quality educational provision in a time when families need us most?

Kind regards,

Teacher

Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School

Nursery Teacher / SEND Practitioner

Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School

From:

Sent: 17 March 2021 14:57

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton Nursery.

Importance: High

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To the schools organisation committee.

I find i must comment on the City Councils proposal to close Hetton Nursery. The decision to even consider closing this loved and highly successful outstanding educational establishment is not only a ludicrous move to consider, it is a proposal which i believe that the people of the town will never forget or forgive or trust the Labour controlling group if indeed that is the final decision.

The timescale, the fact the committee has started and seemingly are pushing very hard to railroad completion of this process during the pandemic is not lost on the residents of the town.

Having watched the online committee meeting with the cabinet members, stakeholders it was apparent to all including members of the community in and around Hetton le Hole the many concerns of the proposed closure were, are being ignored by the cabinet members.

Additionally Mr Alan Rowan contributed to the proposal by forming his justification and i have to say many times contradicting himself to justify what seems to be a forgone closure conclusion which has angered and brought together total disbelief from the general public, and i may add from and beyond Hetton le Hole. Many people from outside the immediate area also feel betrayed by the haste, the total disregard of the labour controlling council commission to actually listen to the opinion of and consider the worries, consequences everyone has who use this nursery, again i stress not only in Hetton, but also parents who have faith, trust and recognition in the nursery enough to travel to have their little one's placed in this outstanding nursery, why because of the educational excellence, the commitment attention to detail of dedicated and successful individuals carrying out the teaching and learning experience of the school. Be it on the labour controlling council if this provision is taken away the community will never forgive or forget the betrayal and will respond for many years to come.

This proposal has been designed to pit one nursery against other provision, it applies pressure, uncertainty and undermines the community. The public are not against a new school being built, They are however angered, disturbed to be contemplating a labour closure of i believe to be the longest serving outstanding nursery in our town, possibly in the City itself. You really need to consider the views of and consider the consequences for your plan long term, the support that you will lose from labour supporters is real and very very strong. We don't forget or forgive betrayal so readily in this ward.

From:

Sent: 18 March 2021 10:10

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Response to proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School

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To whom it may concern

I am writing this email in response to the proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School. My child currently attends this setting, and I am appalled to think the council would deprive my child of outstanding education because of money. Which I have recently learnt is down to under funding from the council!

All Nursery Schools are currently at risk due to lack of funding. How can a maintained Nursery School be inspected as a school but yet not receive adequate funding for the required elements such as qualified teachers?

You are making the suggestion to close **THE ONLY** outstanding provision when there are no other early years settings in Hetton graded as outstanding. I'm not sure where the logic is or what the rationale is behind the proposal. Does Ofsted grading mean nothing?

In accordance with the DfE guidance on opening and closing maintained Nursery Schools, it states:

Proposers should be aware that decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained Nursery Schools. This does not mean that a maintained Nursery School will never close, but that the case for closure should be strong.

Where a proposal is for the closure of a maintained Nursery School, the proposer should set out:

- plans to develop alternative early years provision clearly demonstrating that it will be at least equal in quantity and quality to the provision provided by the Nursery School with no loss of expertise and specialism; and***
- Replacement provision is more accessible and more convenient for local parents.***

I have two arguments:

- 1) There are plans to rebuild Hetton Primary and include an early year's unit, however there will be no provision for babies. Therefore, going against the DfE guidance as it clearly states plans to develop alternative provision should be **EQUAL** in quantity and quality. The absence of provision for babies means the quantity is not equal. As for equal in quality, Hetton Primary school's data makes it very obvious to a parent that this school is failing to support children to achieve levels of attainment in line with national average, Hetton Primary's data is well below national average. Why would I send my child to a failing school? Hetton-le-Hole Nursery Schools data shows that children make outstanding progress and leave in line with age related expectations!

Other alternative provision in Hetton is actually very limited in terms of baby provision and none are graded as outstanding for early years. Therefore, there is no other option which meets the same quality as Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School.

- 2) How do you deem the alternative provision at Hetton Primary to be more accessible? Parents chose to put their children in quality provision based on that, quality, not accessibility. I choose to travel from outside of Hetton for my child to access Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School. I do not choose to send my child into provision close to home for convenience, as they are not graded as outstanding therefore the quality of care and education will not be to the same standard as the Ofsted graded outstanding Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School. Convenience does not outweigh quality! It is interesting to that a strong argument has been made by the council to say these two proposals are not link however all answers about the alternatives revolve solely around that individual school.

The main reason put forward for this closure is financial, however it is now public knowledge that there are significant underspends in both the Early Years Inclusion Funding and Pupil Funding budgets. The combined underspend in the last three years amounts to £4,014,000. The council are therefore withholding money which is rightly allocated to go to education settings. If you as the council were to adequately fund early years setting, with the funding they are entitled to, then there would be no underspend, especially such a significant one! This underspend has a direct impact on the budgets of all settings, consequently exasperating the budget issue at Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School.

We as parents feel the proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is astonishing. Why does money matter more than our children? Particularly in such an unsettling, extraordinary time!

The staff have knowledge and skills like no other, they love and care for our children like their own. We want our children to be healthy, happy and safe. This nursery has been the only safe and familiar place for our children over the past year. Our children have been through unprecedented heartache during the COVID pandemic, they have missed out on family time, normal routine and being children. This has significantly impacted on the well-being of them all. This nursery has been the only norm in their lives this past year and I will be forever grateful that the staff kept my baby safe and happy and provided her with stability. Making a transition to a new provision would be totally devastating for them and would in no doubt impact significantly on their learning and development.

As a parent I believe that we have not had access to any form of real consultation opportunity. The meeting with Alan Rowan and the parents only occurred because the Hetton Town Councillors, the school and the parents applied pressure for this to happen. There has been lots of excuses given around the covid pandemic and the lack of opportunity to hold meetings, this has resulted in parents being frustrated, feeling unheard and undervalued in this process. The pre consultation further confirmed those feelings when the decision was made before the end of the consultation and the significant objections weren't mentioned, nor taken into account. What is the point of a consultation? It appears that the local authority has a plan, those objections didn't suit those plans so were dismissed quickly. I'm unsure of the legalities of this.

Regards

From:

Sent: 18 March 2021 10:48

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Please don't close Hetton Le Hole Nursery School

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Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing you this email because I am very concerned as you are proposing to close Hetton le Hole Nursery School.

My youngest daughter has attended this nursery since she was 9 months old. She is very happy here and loves to go to Nursery. She still has one year left before moving to school and I know a transition to another Nursery at this point will be very disruptive. Her emotional wellbeing is my priority and Hetton le Hole nursery is outstanding. The staff go above and beyond and have made her feel loved and valued and I do not feel any other Nursery will meet her needs. Hetton le hole Nursery is the only setting that is graded outstanding by Ofsted and no other setting in the area currently can match the standards and as a mother I want the best for my child. My eldest daughter attended this Nursery and has only just left to go to school last September. The education she received from the Nursery has moved her on so quickly at school as they care about each individual child.

Covid has affected us all in great ways and as parents we do not need any additional stress of having to move our children. Including the emotional stress, it will bring on them. I am very concerned about where you are suggesting our children go. I have heard that the provision you are putting into place is riddled with Asbestos, my child will definitely not be going there.

I am also very concerned for the staff at Hetton le Hole Nursery they are all outstanding, to lose your job at this time is unspeakable. They all work so hard to give the children an amazing experience they do not need the stress of trying to find a new job. The Community have come together to fight to keep this Nursery open to show the council how important it is to the community. However, we have not been able to share this plan, we have raised funds of over £3000 in just a few weeks to show how important it is. WE feel we should be given time to turn the financial situation around.

Please do not shut this amazing Nursery.

Kind regards

From:

Sent: 18 March 2021 15:01

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth Williamson <Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Proposal of Hetton nursery closure.

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

My name is Kirsty Kipling and I am a Nursery Officer at Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School, where I have worked with the 3-4 year olds for the past 6 and a half years.

I was utterly shocked when I first heard from Alan Rowan in November that the school was going to begin the closure process. I believe that it is shocking that this process was even considered during a global pandemic, which is a very scary time for everyone in the world. It immediately caused me to panic as it has been well documented in the news about job losses and redundancies during Covid. This causes me a great deal of anxiety about having to potentially seek new employment during these difficult times.

Furthermore, the impact on the families in our setting has been astonishing and they have suffered immensely as a result of the Covid pandemic. Parents have spoken at length about their worries about the impact the closure would have on their children, especially with them having to transfer to a different setting when they are settled in our nursery and have strong relationships with their key workers.

The main point of the nursery's proposal to close is financial. The nursery has a deficit of up to £200,000 that you say you do not have the capacity to clear and cannot support the nursery financially moving forward. However when information came to light about a huge underspend of over £4,000,000 in the Early Years Inclusion Funding and Pupil Funding budgets our deficit seems like a very small amount to be cleared with all of this money being left over for the last three years.

I am particularly angry about the underspend in the SEND inclusion funding. We have children with severe SEND denied this funding, and as a result we have had to support them using our already diminished budget. Over the years, I have had the pleasure of supporting many children with additional needs and our school has a SENDCo who has extensive knowledge and expertise in the Early Years. No other setting in Hetton can offer these levels of expertise, especially in those younger children.

It really does feel like the council puts money and finance before the quality of education. Why close a well-established nursery over a deficit which could be cleared?

Our community have shown us extremely high levels of support and have come up with plans to save the nursery. It is really upsetting that they have not had the opportunity to share these with the council. Surely these could be shared before any major decisions are made?

To conclude I just wanted to say that it is with deep sadness that I am actually having to write this after years of hard work being put into our outstanding setting. We are an incredibly hard working team and go above and beyond for our children and parents. The praise we receive each year when the children transition to primary school really shows their appreciation. However it doesn't seem enough

due to the proposal that has been set out. Let's remember what is the most important aspect in all of this; the children!

I completely oppose this proposal for closure, both as a parent and a staff member of the nursery. Why close a nursery that is successful?

Nursery Officer

Hetton-le-hole Nursery

From:

Sent: 18 March 2021 15:54

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth Williamson <Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School proposed closure

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I am writing to object to the proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School.

I am truly saddened at the proposal to close Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School. I have been an employee for the past 5 years and it has been my passion to teach children. As a male in a nursery setting I have faced many stereotypes and judgements but the staff and parents of the nursery school have made me feel welcome and secure from day one. The news of this proposal has made me lose all faith in the Local Authority and the education system. The nursery school is the only school in the area with an outstanding OFSTED grade.

Not only this but the school's local area is one of depravity and many children are considered vulnerable. We provide a safe haven for children to feel secure and cared for. Many of these children will not have access to outstanding childcare if the nursery were to close. This itself means that if the school to close, I would make the difficult decision to leave my career in education altogether. I no longer feel that the Local Authority believes in the education system.

Outstanding education should be promoted and be the main target for all settings. If the only setting in the area with this grade was to close it shows that the main priority for the Local Authority is purely financial, rather than providing children with the opportunity to an outstanding education. I can no longer be a part in this. I can't work knowing that children are not supported appropriately. They are simply numbers on a page to the Local Authority. As long as they meet their financial targets then they consider themselves to have achieved their role. This is a travesty.

I would also like to highlight that the communication between the Local Authority and the school has been disappointing to say the least. We have had to fight for information and many decisions have been taken without the nursery's input and not a thought has been spared for the staff. The school has been a passionate place of work for everyone for years. Unfortunately, this means many of the staff will be out of a job and be placed into financial turmoil. This situation is made immensely worse due to the current state of the country as a consequence of the pandemic. Finding a new job is the most challenging it has ever been.

The Local Authority has said many staff can transition into the new Hetton Primary school however, we have been informed the positions are few and far between. This comes after originally being told that most could transition into the new setting. The anxiety that we all share is immense. I personally have a very challenging situation at home due to having two children with Autism. My well-being has been the lowest it has ever been and again support outside of the nursery this has been nil. If the nursery were to close, I no longer have the support of the school and staff, financially or emotionally.

I hope the outpouring of support from the community for our school shows that it is not something the Local Authority can remove so easily. It has been a cornerstone of the community for decades and will keep on being so if given the opportunity. There are many things the school can do to boost the class numbers and decrease the deficit, such as advertisements on local radio, newspapers and local advertisement through signs, leaflets and advertisement boards. Unfortunately, before we had an opportunity to do these the school was moved forward for closure. It feels that the decision was already made that the school would close before it was even discussed. The Local Authority is simply ticking the boxes they need to avoid any backlash. The future is uncertain, and I hope that the people who can prevent this from happening take the time to view our perspective and seriously consider the impact the closure will have on the staff, the local community and most importantly the children of our school.

Nursery Officer at Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School

From:

Sent: 18 March 2021 17:31

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth Williamson <Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject:

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As a current employee of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery (7 years) I would like to oppose the proposal to close our school. I can't believe I'm writing this during a global pandemic. Closing the nursery would be truly devastating for the community, in a time of financial and emotional heartache.

It's the only outstanding nursery in Hetton and I feel as a staff member we have worked extremely hard to give the best possible care and support to the children and families in the community. When I started as a student in 2013, I couldn't believe the love and support the staff gave to all children and instantly fell in love with the setting. While studying my daughter Layla was two and started in our toddler room. The staff were fantastic settling her in and gave me reassurance. Layla went on into main nursery, and when she left, I left so at ease when starting her new school as she had the best possible start and confidence to go on to her new adventure.

Closing the nursery will mean letting down children with Special Educational Needs. Our setting has a qualified SENDco, who is also an Early Years specialist and is able to support all children who have additional needs to make outstanding progress during their time at nursery. I feel other provisions are less accessible or have no places to accommodate their needs.

Throughout my time parents have received the best possible care and support and it's shown with the outstanding feedback we receive. It makes me feel proud to be part of a setting that supports all children no matter their needs. This is because all the staff

are highly skilled, kind and caring. We will go above and beyond to support the children and families in our community.

I feel when Alan came to talk to our staff members in October 2020, it was made clear that we will be closing due to money troubles. The Nursery has incurred £76,000 of Covid-19 losses this year, however despite this the closing deficit (in year) was £58,449. The council have not provided any additional support.

The nursery was unable to furlough staff due to them being employed but the council. I feel if the council were in a position to furlough staff that the school's deficit would have been a lot lower. As a member of staff I asked to be furloughed as I wanted to help the nursery as much as I could.

I truly believe closing an outstanding provision in a global pandemic, especially when no other setting in the area is close to being as good as ours is disgusting and unfair to all of the staff, children and the whole community.

If the decision is made to close out outstanding school, then what support is going to be given to all staff?

Alan told me in my personal meeting which included HR, my union representee and Ruth Williamson, Headteacher that there will 5-6 positions available. I'm now not sure what to believe after listening to the YouTube meeting posted including the Hetton Primary Head Teacher saying she has fully trained staff to fill the new nursery positions. Now where does that leave me, and the rest of the staff at the nursery?

Making us redundant in a global pandemic is not the way forward. How will I find a new job when 2 million people are also in the same position? Can you please tell me why we are in this position when, the main reason put forward for this closure is financial? However, there are significant underspends in both the Early Years Inclusion Funding and Pupil Funding budgets. The combined underspend in the last three years amounts to £4,014,000. Can this not be spent on our setting?

Since October, Ruth, all staff and our fantastic parents have campaigned to show why our school should remain open. Can you not see why? Ofsted have rated us outstanding. The staff and the community deserve a better reason to why you want to close us, other than financial reasons.

Hetton Town Council

The Hetton Centre
Welfare Road
Hetton le Hole
DH5 9NE
Tel: 0191 561 6600
Mobile: 0753 867 3657
email: townclerk@hettontowncouncil.gov.uk
18 March 2021

Dear Mr Rowan

Objection to proposal to discontinue Hetton le Hole Nursery

At an Extraordinary meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 4 March 2021, it was resolved that the Town Council submit a formal objection to the proposal by Sunderland City Council to close Hetton le Hole Nursery School.

Town Council was unanimous in its' opposition and the position reflects the strength of feeling in the local community that this outstanding educational facility be saved from closure.

Details of the basis of the objection are below:

Non-compliance with Dept of Education guidelines

Maintained nursery schools are required to provide high quality early education, led by specialist Head Teachers and delivered by qualified teachers especially in deprived areas and to put parents and families at the centre of their work.

D of E guidance November 2019 states "The decision-maker should give the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal - especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools". This has not been complied with.

1 of 3

Objection from Hetton Town Council cont ...

Unfair Competition

Sunderland City Council has permitted and encouraged unfair competition by allowing numerous private nurseries to undercut state schools by insisting that state schools are required to have higher qualified staff and meet the costs of being a school but only provide them with the same level of funding as private and voluntary providers. The Council is effectively privatising nursery education by the back door.

Opaque financial information

The Council has been derelict in its duties by not actively involving and discussing with the school, the school governors, residents, families and Hetton Town Council possible ways to overcome the difficulties of falling roll numbers and the associated reduction in income because of unfair competition permitted by them.

It has been acknowledged in documented meetings that the financial vulnerability of the Nursery is not due to mismanagement of funds but due to the methodology behind the funding formula and the unavoidable costs associated with a Maintained Nursery School.

Non allocation of funding

The City Council has not provided any Covid-19 relief funds to the school despite having received many millions from central government. Relief has been given to private nurseries. Covid-19 losses estimate at £74,381.00. In total over the last three years there was an under spend of £4,014,000 for the Early Years Funding and Inclusion Funding. Why has additional funding not been provided for this nursery and other maintained nurseries to clear any outstanding deficits to ensure these much-needed nurseries are adequately funded.

Inaccurate budget forecast

The budget forecast is inaccurate. Toddlers are at 97% capacity and the baby room is in a similar position. Interest for enrolment for September 2021 is high. With toddlers moving up this will allow more places for the this much in demand service.

New residential developments close by such as Blossom Park (identified by SCC as a source for new intake) coupled with the nursery's other plans, as published in their recent power-point presentation, are likely to increase numbers. It would require no more than three additional children to eliminate the projected deficit.

Financial inaccuracy

The Council referred to the uplift given to the nursery as the reason for at least one other school going into deficit while maintaining that all maintained nursery schools receive their additional financial support through an agreed formula. This is a deliberate distortion of the facts. In the funding year 2019-2020 five out of eight Maintained Nursery Schools ended the year with a deficit In-year balance.

Objection from Hetton Town Council cont ...**Lack of consideration on effects on children**

Hetton Town Council believes on the grounds of physical, mental and emotional health as well as safety that it is inconceivable the Council is considering transferring these young and vulnerable children into temporary demountable classrooms for a period of up to 3 years and at the same time reconfiguring the asbestos ridden existing building. We have not been provided with the costings, but investigations would suggest that it will cost around £50,000 + VAT per year to rent them. We believe that this money should be allocated towards any deficits for the foreseeable future and during this interim period the Council should undertake proactive work with all interested parties to ensure the future success of Hetton le Hole Nursery school.

Flawed decision making process

Hetton Town Council is concerned about the legality of the Council Cabinet taking the decision to move forward to a statutory consultation 5 days before the pre consultation closed as this did not permit all responses to be considered.

I trust that Sunderland City Council will take cognisance of this submission in light of public and Town Council views which fully support the continuation of educational provision at this site for the benefit of current and future children of the town and beyond.

Yours sincerely

From:

Sent: 18 March 2021 20:31

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton Le Hole Nursery Closure

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Sir/Madam

I am writing to your organisation to express my concerns in regards to the closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery.

My son has attended this nursery on a regular basis for the past year. We use this nursery for many reasons, firstly being that my wife and I work full time and this nursery is the only one in our locality that has repeatedly achieved an outstanding ofsted report. Another reason is that the nursery was recommended by a number of our friends, all of whom have had children attend this nursery. This nursery not only supports our children but it supports our community. By closing the highest rated nursery in a deprived area you may be effecting the very education that you are employed to promote. The repercussions of which may reverberate through our children and future generations to come.

This school closure also creates extra stress and upheaval for my family. Not only has my son grown attached to the staff at this nursery but as I've previously stated my wife and I work full time. To add to this I am a serving member of the armed forces and I'm often away from home. This will likely mean that my wife will probably bare the brunt of this upheaval, not only working a full time job but also having to apply to different, lesser, nurseries in the area. Non of which may have a space for our son. Other nurseries may not be as accommodating to our situation, which will also create extra stress in reorganising childcare. This could in turn leave us financially out of pocket in a time when employment is precarious for almost everyone.

My wife and I are also concerned by your intended use of demountable classrooms during the interim between old and new nurseries. How can you justify the use of temporary structures when ensuring the safety and security of our children at such a young and vulnerable age. How can you justify spending money on these temporary buildings whilst already having a fully operating nursery.

In conclusion my wife and I are wholeheartedly in disagreement with the closure of our sons nursery. We believe the upheaval will create extra unwanted stress to our family and that the poor stability and security of demountable classrooms is irresponsible when used for children of such a young age.

Regards

From: < >

Sent: 18 March 2021 20:59

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton-le-Hole Nursery closure

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I would like to object against the closure of the nursery.

Hetton le hole nursery is a fantastic long standing education setting and is part of The hetton community. Just listening to public response around the community you will see there's a huge appreciation for the nursery.

If it truly is down to funding alone, shouldn't exceptions be made on covid alone? So many businesses have had help with funding but not maintained nursery schools.

Upheaval for current pupils would be massive especially In these unpredictable times where for young children, nursery has been one of the only

Constants.

The deficit the nursery has, on the grand scheme of things, is nothing. If there no discussion on wiping it, lowering it or giving the nursery a good chance of lowering this inherited debt?

There's no use for the building if it closes which is a crying shame.

I strongly urge you to listen to the public and your hearts.

From: < >

Sent: 18 March 2021 22:12

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>;
ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Closure of Hetton le Hole nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing with a lot of concern that a decision is being made to close Hetton le Hole nursery school. I am a parent of a former pupil at this school and have sat in meetings and listened, as much as possible, to the reasons behind the proposal.

Unfortunately I have not heard a clear reason why this proposal has been made. Hetton leHole nursery school is the only school in the area with an Outstanding Ofsted record.

During the consultation period we have heard some of the council's reasons, one of them, and seemingly the main one, being that the nursery is in deficit and continues to lose money due to being below capacity. If this is the reason, why then build a bigger nursery in the same area if there are not enough children to fill the spaces in a provision half the size?

We have heard, following the freedom of information request , that Sundrland city council is under-spending on nursery funding from Central Government by £4million. Where is the money if it is not being spent on the nurseries that it is allocated for?

I am really concerned that Sunderland being in the North, and Hetton in particular, are areas that are considered to be deprived. We know that education is best way to enable children to have hope, to develop their area, and to become prosperous. A good education, more so. Hetton has been lucky to have this Outstanding provision which has maintained its status for years, to ensure that our children have the best start in life.

I am Very disappointed and hope that this decision will be overturned. I feel that Sunderland city council have betrayed us as your residents by not having a thorough consultation before this embarrassing proposal has been made.

Whatever you do, please do not shut down our childrens only real hope for a better future. Stop the closure!

Kind regards

From: < >

Sent: 19 March 2021 08:16

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth Williamson <Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Consultation response

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this email in response to the proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School to which I am completely opposed to. I am currently a member of staff who is on maternity leave and not only am I at risk of losing my job with a new baby but my child would be attending this setting.

I am saddened to know that my child along with other children who currently attend and children who have their names down to attend could possibly have their journey cut short due to a lack of funding from the council! It is like the council are only interested in finances, and not the quality of education that nurseries provide.

This nursery school is the ONLY 'outstanding' nursery provision in the area and the Ofsted grading must mean nothing. There is currently no other childcare setting close to me that has an 'outstanding' Ofsted grading therefore I am not going to place my child somewhere just for convenience to me or my family. I place the decision of where I am going to send my child on the outstanding care and provision I would like my child to access, as I have to travel to come to Hetton.

I know first-hand that the staff here genuinely care and love the children who attend and they thrive to give the best possible educational start to these children's lives and all children make outstanding progress throughout their time with the nursery. They are always there for families and I think this shows by the amount of support we have received from the community and parents, both past and present. It has been phenomenal to see their support and their campaign to help secure the nursery from closing. Why is parental choice being ignored when they clearly

want the nursery to remain open. In the pre-consultation, 92% of people disagreed with the proposal. Surely this cements the nursery's standing within the local community?

This year during a global pandemic it has been so tough on everyone and especially our little ones whose lives have been far from normal. I know this setting has provided excellent safety measures to ensure the children still have the best experiences but also kept them safe. Why take that away from them now? They need to continue to feel safe and comfortable during these times.

We urge you to reconsider the proposed closure. As parents of children attending Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School, past and present, we stand together to argue the future of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School should be positive.

In summary, this proposal is wrong and the closure will effect so many peoples lives and futures in a catastrophic way. I fully oppose this proposal.

From: < >

Sent: 19 March 2021 08:19

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth Williamson <Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection to Proposal to discontinue Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

My name is Kelly Knight and I am a Nursery Officer at Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School. I am writing to you to highlight my objections to your proposal to close the nursery.

This nursery opened in 1945, and was the first maintained nursery school in Sunderland. It is a huge part of the community, supporting those families who need their services most. Families truly value our nursery, and this has been highlighted through their responses to this proposal, and their fundraising efforts – to date they have raised £3000 in a very short time. This highlights the communities feelings about the closure, that they completely oppose it. Yet the council still went ahead with the formal consultation, when 92% of people were against the closure during the pre-consultation. It appears like the community's feelings are being completely disregarded during this process.

There has been no consideration for the nurseries outstanding rating. It is the only outstanding nursery in Hetton with no other schools being able to match that in Hetton. The proposal highlights that alternative places will be available at the new Hetton Primary site, but this is only for 2-5 year olds. If the nursery were to close, there would not be an alternative setting for babies to attend which are outstanding. Where are the parents of those children going to send their children? Furthermore, will there be all year-round care for those children? Many of our parents require all year-round care. One of the alternative provisions available is a private day care nursery of which the standards are nowhere near as high as ours.

I am outraged that this proposal is being pushed through during a global pandemic. The staff have worked tirelessly as key workers to support families through these difficult times. Undoubtedly this has been an immensely stressful time for everyone involved and if the nursery closes then this will create even more stress for staff, parents and the community. It is so infuriating that we have operated as a key worker service and we are faced with closure, the nursery was not even offered any covid relief funds which had been allocated from the government.

Alan Rowan stated in November that there would be ringfenced positions at Hetton Primary for staff but the headteacher there recently said in a public meeting that she has staff with the necessary expertise to run the nursery unit. To close the school in the midst of a pandemic, where jobs are sparse and everyone is struggling is disgusting, but to then go back on promises of ring fenced positions is insulting.

We have been offered redundancy but this is a very short term option. After having 9 years service, I will be able to support myself for 1 month based off my estimated payment. This in turn causes me a great deal of anxiety as I am a single parent with 3 children and a mortgage to pay. Where is the consideration for staff?

In summary, I am completely opposed to the proposed closure of the nursery. I think it is outrageous to displace the staff and families at a time of uncertainty.

Early Years Practitioner

From: < >

Sent: 19 March 2021 10:21

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton Le Hole Outstanding Nursery

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Dear sir/madam

- Our 3yr old grandson has been attending Hetton le Hole nursery since he was 12 months old. He loves been there and has made so many friends.
- He will be starting school in September 2022. If his nursery is closed it means he will have to move from his safe place which he loves, to a different setting where his friends might not go to plus

he won't have his teachers. He will be there for a year and then have to move to a new school and do it all again. This will have a major impact on his emotional well being.

- Hetton le hole nursery have helped and supported not only our grandson but us as grandparents.
- Our grandson was recently diagnosed with a rare brain defect and all staff and Ruth have communicated with his health professionals to put a plan in place to help with his educational and complex needs. They have gone above and beyond to help him. Another reason we are really concerned about him having to move from nursery to nursery and then school. It could take months for another nursery to learn his needs.
- Our grandson is learning makaton sign language at nursery. They have trained staff who are amazing and he's picking it up really good. They have also given us help sheets so we can learn at home. I've looked around and do not see any other nursery that have trained staff in this field.
- Our grandson will NOT be attending Hetton primary, so why would we move him to the nursery for a year when he's in a perfectly outstanding nursery now.
- Putting children into Porter cabins and asbestos class rooms is really bad for their health. Especially for nursery aged children. My daughter worked in construction and knows full well the dangers of building sites, with dust, rubble, cement etc. Which is made more dangerous with children under 4yr old been put in that environment.
- A big concern is Hetton primary is right next to a busy road with no parking and also right next to Hetton comprehensive. So you have the danger off construction workers, more busy traffic and older children, with no parking. Doesn't take much for an older child to push one of the little ones into the road.
- Why will SSC not use the underspend to help out Hetton le Hole nursery and others that are facing closure?
- Hetton le hole nursery is set back away from roads and other schools. There is also a car park.
- The nursery garden has everything. There are nature walks, trees, etc. Not paving slabs like other nurseries around. One of the reason My daughter decided to send my grandson to Hetton le hole and not one of the others.
- The nursery is not just a place for our children to learn but to make friends and also the whole nursery are like family. The care you receive from them all is outstanding. We would be heartbroken if the nursery were to close and all the children had to find somewhere else. They might not even get into a nursery that is close to where we live. Hetton le nursery is practically in our doorstep.

We really hope you listen to us all and take everything into consideration. We will do anything and everything we can to keep our much loved nursery open.

From: < >

Sent: 19 March 2021 10:39

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth Williamson <Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Response to the proposal to close Hetton Le Hole Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you in response to the proposal to close Hetton le Hole Nursery School. I am currently employed as a senior leader at the school and I am very much against the proposal for many reasons.

Hetton-le-Hole Nursery is the only Early Years provision in Hetton-le-Hole that is graded as outstanding by Ofsted. No other settings currently can match the standard of the provision provided. Hetton-le-Hole Nursery has a qualified SENDco who is an Early Years specialist and can support all children who have additional needs to make outstanding progress during their time at nursery.

Children, staff, and parents have suffered immensely as a result of the Covid pandemic and do not need further trauma and upset in their lives. The school needs to remain open to support everyone – staff, families, the children and the local community.

Furthermore, Sunderland Council have not provided any Covid-19 relief funds to the nursery despite having received many millions of pounds from central government. The nursery has incurred £76,000 of Covid-19 losses this year, however despite this the closing deficit (in year) was £58,449. The nursery was unable to furlough staff due to us being council employees.

There have been mixed messages about ring fenced job opportunities at Hetton Primary since the beginning of the closure process. Senior leaders like myself have not been offered similar positions at Hetton Primary so expertise is immediately lost!

Year on year budget cuts have been made to the nursery funding, making it impossible for it to be financially stable. The leadership team have completed extensive restructures and the Headteacher has taken on many roles to reduce costings. Also funding decisions about Maintained Nursery Schools have not been made by parliament and the government is urging local authorities to hold off making decisions about their long-term futures. So with this in mind I am unsure as to why the proposal to close the nursery is even being considered at a time like this.

I would also like to question why the local authority is yet to provide the governors and parents with alternative options that they have considered before planning a full closure. In discussions with the school it was made clear that there are no alternatives, despite leaders being open to suggestions.

In government guidance for opening and closing maintained schools it also makes it clear that when proposing to close a maintained nursery school that certain points are

considered. One of these is plans to develop alternative Early Years provision which is equal in quantity and quality to the provision provided by the maintained nursery school with no loss in expertise and specialism. I would argue that if the school were to close then there would be a loss of specialism.

There are no other Ofsted rated outstanding provisions in Hetton-le-Hole. The Baby Room provision which I am currently room leader in, is being lost and the flexibility of all year round attendance will not be replicated at the primary school. I am very disheartened that there are no opportunities for the highly qualified and specialist leaders such as myself to move across into the alternative provision, so the specialisms will be lost.

The guidance also stipulates how the replacement provision is more accessible and convenient for local parents. There has been a lack of consultation with parents to gain their views, with their 'choices' for alternative provision for their child outlined in the proposal document.

This whole process is very unsettling and has caused very low morale amongst staff as it is uncertainty for everyone involved. Would it not be more efficient, effective and cohesive to protect, nurture and value the early years' expertise and specialisms already present within Hetton-le-Hole Nursery school?

I hope decision makers will fully listen to the views of the community before making a decision.

I urge you to save us and show that you value our work.

Kind regards

Senior leader

From:

Sent: 19 March 2021 11:06

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Regarding Closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School

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Hi,

Please find attached my response to the proposed closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School.

Thanks

Head Teacher

Houghton Community Nursery School

Nesham Place,

Houghton le Spring,

Sunderland,

DH5 8AE

0191 584 6655

Mill Hill Nursery School

Torphin Hill Drive

Doxford Park

Sunderland

SR3 2PJ

0191 522 0505

Consultation Response regarding Closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery

Nursery schools have been recognised as being the 'jewel in the crown' in respect of Early Years providers. There is compelling evidence that they make a huge difference to the life of young children and their families, specifically in relation to areas of deprivation.

I believe that Sunderland LA is extremely lucky to have eight maintained nursery schools contributing to outstanding provision for the youngest children of the city, and that they should be highlighted and used as providers of outstanding practice.

As a previous Head Teacher of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery I also understand the role the schools plays within the community and the value that the families place on the setting, so to hear that it is at risk of closure was really sad. The school has very experienced staff with a wealth of knowledge and training that would be lost by the school closing.

Nursery schools have faced many years of financial instability, where it has been very difficult to balance the budget as a result of a lack of funding, however I do not believe closing the school is the only option to rectify the deficit budget the school has.

It has been shown with the Hard Federation of Mill Hill Nursery and Houghton Community Nursery that it is possible to reduce a nursery school's deficit and also to then go one step further and to build a surplus within the schools budget. I believe with this evidence that an option of Federating Hetton-le-Hole with another Nursery School across the LA should have been pursued before taking the decision to close it.

I sincerely hope that the Local Authority look again at the different options available and are able to avoid closing the Nursery School.

Yours Sincerely

From < >

Sent: 19 March 2021 12:28

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Opposing the closure of Helton Le Hole Nursery

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am a grandparent of a 3 yr old who has attended this Ofsted outstanding nursery since he was a small baby , and his older sister and 2 cousins also attended here.

At present he has a further year to attend and the idea at this such young age to remove him from his friends and the disruption caused by the journey to the new proposed nursery is ludicrous. Never mind allowing the prospect of them using portocabins till the new Nursery is built and then the further risk of asbestos, you definitely don't place the health and welfare of my family as a priority and I struggle to understand you're reasons to relocate.

The new Nursery location at Hetton Primary school will enhance the traffic on an already dangerous road, which at busy times has queues of traffic, then there is the increase footfall from the Senior children leaving Hetton Comp. We avoid this road at the best of times, maybe highways could give you info on the accidents and deaths that have occurred here.

I have a grandson with special needs who attends another school , the mental state he gets into just by changing Year class is terrible to see. I have seen changes in my younger grandson at 3 by being unable to attend Hetton Nursery due to Covid, the time he didn't attend he was unruly, crying screaming, sudden outbursts, now he is back all his anger has gone, he sleeps, and is back to his loving self.

Hetton Nursery provide the only early years to which it is graded as outstanding. I was under the assumption that local councils received grants from Government to assist such places as this.

Why has Hetton Nursery not received any help especially as there staff could not be furloughed, of course it would go into a deficit financial position?

Where have these funds been allocated too.?

I feel you have not given Parents , Staff or the community time to oppose this and that you have not listened to any of us. Staff have proposed ways of decreasing the deficit but again it seems it's all cut and dry. The decision has been made.

As a labour voter please remember this , this is our community, our children, I have lived and worked in this vicinity all of my life and have experienced the issues mentioned above and I know that any move would not have the health welfare and best interests of the children.

Our council blames the Tories for a lot of things, as we do but this is in Labours hands our council, our councillors. The people who are supposed to do the best for there communities.

I await the outcome of this consultation .

From:.

Sent: 19 March 2021 12:59

To: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk; School Organisation
<schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject:

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

To Whom it may concern

Please find attached below letter of concern regarding the proposed closer of Hetton Nursery for your attention.

Kind regards

To Whom it May Concern

I am a concerned grand parent who has not only seen my grandson but also my own two children attend what has always been an excellent nursery, with very high standards of learning, and care of not only my own children but countless others to name a few.

It has come as somewhat a shock to find out that an establishment as good as this for well over 70 years is now being overlooked by what can only be described as underhanded management by the borough council. I strongly feel that all avenues have not been taken into consideration, which for any school or nursery has been a very difficult time what with the pandemic and current state of the economy. It does not make economical sense to close a well-established nursery, to spend millions on a new/refurbished nursery which to my knowledge has an abundance of issues not to mention toxic and very dangerous asbestos tiling, which is very costly to not only remove but dispose of safely.

For most parents this last year has been very difficult what with child care arrangements and social welfare of their child or children, but have been comforted by the fact that they can send their children to a well-run safety free environment without having to worry now about having to relocate in the middle of what would be a very important phase in their development.

I must stress that for any parent wanting to see their child grow and succeed, is to be learnt at what can only be described as an outstanding establishment, not my own words but that of Ofsted themselves, as far as I am aware no other Nursery in the immediate area can match the standard of teaching and learning provided.

Finally, I would like to finish with some facts that should be taken into consideration. The staff should be recognised for there hard work and dedication in providing caring and highly skilled support to not only the children that they care for but the parents and community of which they have provided support throughout what has probably been more trying times than of those today, the community have rallied round to try and fight the closer of the nursery which speaks volumes about the passion and importance that the nursey not only provides but gives back to the community of Hetton. The decision to close the nursey needs to be looked into with more depth taking into consideration the detrimental effect that this will have on the parents and children of the community, and not purely based on how much money and resource's the council can continue to waste.

From: < >

Sent: 19 March 2021 13:23

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Proposed Closure of Hetton Nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I am sending this e-mail regarding the proposed closure of Hetton Nursery

I am against this proposal as set out below:-

This nursery is at the heart of the community and has been established for over 75 years.

At present i don't have any children who attend this nursery but my son, who is now 12 attended from the age of 3, his was at nursery for the mornings and also attended for extra hours on the afternoons whilst i was working. I felt that the nursery met the needs of my son and myself very well and the provision provided was outstanding. The staff there are highly skilled, kind and caring. They go above and beyond to support the children and families. My son made a lot of progress attending this nursery.

It will be a travesty if future children are denied the chance to attend this nursery. I am aware there are other nurseries in Hetton, including the new one at Hetton Primary however, myself and numerous others would still rather send our children to this nursery that is graded outstanding by Ofsted.

The nursery is in a good location, central for parents and children, rather than have to travel out of the centre of Hetton. Although i am not against the new nursery at Hetton Primary, i am very concerned about the extra traffic around that area that will bring, especially at opening times when there are a lot of children around that area going to schools there.

Also Hetton nursery is a feeder to the majority children to other local primary schools. If children attend Hetton nursery then at least they have a choice of which primary school to go to, however if they are placed at a nursery within a primary school, they feel obliged to go to that school....even if they don't really want to.

I am saddened that the local authority is yet to provide the governors or parents with alternative options that they have considered before planning a full closure. In discussions with the school and governors it was made clear there are no alternatives, despite leaders being open to suggestions. Its not just the children this will affect, some staff may have the opportunity to gain employment at Hetton Primary, but sadly not all will.

The community have shown sheer determination to help save this nursery. Parents have put together a financial plan to improve the nursery's situation and they have also raised funds in the region of £3,000 in a couple of weeks. They feel that it should be allowed time to try and turn this situation around before such a major proposal is undertaken.

This just goes to show how strongly the community feels against these proposals.

It has also been noted that the council are arguing that the nursery has a deficit of up to £200,000 that they cannot support financially moving forward. The main reason put forward for this closure is financial, however there are significant underspends in both the Early Years Inclusion Funding and Pupil Funding budgets. The combined underspend in the last three years amounts to £4,014,000.

These underspends have resulted in a direct impact on the budgets and survival of all of the Maintained Nursery Schools. The council could utilise those underspent funds to save the maintained nursery sector in Sunderland, who are currently being disadvantaged by surplus funds not being used effectively.

In summary, if these surplus funds are used for the correct purpose, there is no need to close down an Ofsted rated outstanding nursery which has served the people of Hetton for over 75 years. The show of determination by the people of Hetton shows you that alone.

From: >

Sent: 19 March 2021 14:08

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton Le Hole Nursery School

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to do to express my feeling regarding the proposed closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery school.

As a parent of a child who began his Early Years at this nursery only six month ago, I feel as though the upheaval for my child would be completely unfair. Our children have already missed their familiar settings, family members and been through enough this year. I despair at how you can contemplate closing the only stability in these children's lives at the moment. His emotional wellbeing will be knocked once again.

My eldest child attended Hetton Nursery School because of its outstanding grading - we travel from Seaham - over 6 mile away. As a teacher myself, I didn't even read the OFSTED report. The warmth and care you feel as soon as you walk through that door was enough for us to decide that this was the only nursery we wanted our children to attend - and I truly feel that, because of this experience at Hetton, she is now achieving at a much higher standard than most children of her age. This is the same within the job I do. Children perform much better academically when joining school from maintained nursery settings. They are provided with the most carefully tailored learning experiences from qualified professionals - only maintained nurseries offer this. They have an experienced Senior Leadership Team who are qualified and trained to prepare children for school settings and a qualified SENDco who can support SEN children to make outstanding progress. You can not

for one second tell me that private nurseries have this provision available at this standard - it's actually impossible.

Neither my oldest child or my youngest would be attending Hetton Primary - this outstanding nursery was chosen because of its unique learning experiences and attainments - I expect you assume that all children attending the nursery would want their child to attend that primary school?

My just turned two year old will NOT be attending a brand new nursery - sorry, I mean porta cabin - where he is completely unfamiliar with staff and surroundings in the middle of a pandemic. I very much doubt you have the funds to create jobs for all of the amazing QUALIFIED staff at Hetton Nursery. Upheaval for my child once again which will undoubtedly affect his emotional well being.

Traffic is another reason why my son would not be attending. Have you seen the build up of traffic on that road? Are you really expecting toddlers to access a nursery from that road? If you are then that is appalling. I am sure OFSTED would have a field day with safeguarding.

DFE guidance states that maintained nurseries should NOT be closed on financial deficit alone. What other reason can you provide me for closing the only outstanding setting in the area? The nursery has had no COVID relief funding during the pandemic. The community has raised thousands of pounds to clear some of this deficit. The determination and passion of the community can not be ignored. It speaks for itself.

The DFE also states that the decision maker should give the greatest weight of responses from the stakeholders most likely to be affected by the decision - 92% of those who responded to the pre consultation were against the closure. This can't be ignored as it is us, the stake holders, the parents, children, families, staff and community who refuse to accept this. What reason can you give me now for closure if not for financial deficit?

Hetton le Hole Nursery school is our family. They are our children's family. It is my little boy's start in life and your proposal to close is absurd, unfair and completely selfish.

From:

Sent: 19 March 2021 14:12

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Response to consultation

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Kind Regards

On behalf of Hetton Lyons Nursery School's Governing Body

18/3/2021

Response to the proposal for the closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery School

To Whom it may concern

Looking at the information provided by Sunderland City Council, the reasons given for closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery are

- 1- Financial
- 2- Sufficiency in the area.

Information provided to Hetton Le Hole Nursery School states there is a falling roll at the nursery school and there is a decreasing birth rate in the area and that the nursery's closure would "safeguard the wider sufficiency of nursery places in the Hetton Ward". Yet it was agreed on 11/3/2021 for the addition of a new 55 full time place nursery to be developed at Hetton Primary School.

This directly conflicts with sufficiency in the area being affected by Hetton Le Hole Nursery remaining open. Which is it, there are too many childcare places in the Hetton Ward, so Hetton Le Hole nursery school is surplus to requirement or there are not enough places in the ward so a new nursery class is required?

"Feedback from consultation indicates there remains a preference in the area for maintained settings over nursery classes". This statement again conflicts with the closing of a maintained setting to open a nursery class; does this imply that feedback from consultations are not being used to inform the type of provision that is provided in the area according to parental choice?

Initial consultation on the closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery School showed that out of the 541 responses, 92% disagreed with the proposal to close; this shows extremely high levels of disagreement for this proposal. What percentage of disagreement to a proposal is required for the proposal to be reviewed?

Overall, according to consultation information, it seems that to fill the gap of the closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery School, a new nursery will be needed at Hetton Primary School indicating there is a need for places in Hetton.

In light of this, it feels that that the other stated reason for closure, the finances, is only applicable reason which goes against the advice of the DFE not to close a nursery purely on financial grounds if there is a need for places.

As governors of a maintained nursery school, we are aware that the Early Years funding formula across the country does not work leaving many a nursery school in financial difficulty but the DFE asks that no nursery school is closed on a deficit budget only as they look for a long term funding solution.

The closing of the nursery school will mean the loss of the expertise of the staff and leaders from the school. This expertise has allowed some of the most deprived children in Hetton to gain the skills and experiences that they need to thrive as the move into the primary phase of their education.

Kind Regards

The Governors of Hetton Lyons Nursery School

From: < >

Sent: 19 March 2021 15:31

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.Sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le Hole Nursery School and Childcare

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To the schools organisation committee.

I would like to put forward my objections to the closure of the above mentioned Hetton Nursery

1.THIS IS AN OFSTED RATED " OUTSTANDING NURSERY"

2. THE NURSERY WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1945 AND WAS INFACT THE FIRST EVER MAINTAINED NURSERY IN SUNDERLAND .

3.IT IS THE ONLY EARLY YEARS PROVISION / NURSERY THAT IS GRADED OUTSTANDING BY OFSTED. NO OTHER SETTING IN HETTON CURRENTLY CAN MATCH THE STANDARD OF THE PROVISION PROVIDED.

4.THE NURSERY HAS A QUALIFIED SENDco WHO IS AN EARLY YEARS SPECIALIST AND IS ABLE TO SUPPORT ALL CHILDREN WHO HAVE ADDITIONAL NEEDS TO MAKE OUTSTANDING PROGRES DURING THEIR TIME AT NURSERY .

5. AN UNDERSPEND OF £4,014,000.HAS RESULTED IN A DIRECT IMPACT ON THE BUDGETS AND SURVIVAL OF ALL MAINTAINED NURSERY SCHOOLS .THIS UNDERSPEND COULD BE USED TO SAVE THE MAINTAINED NURSERY SECTOR IN SUNDERLAND,WHO ARE CURRENTLY BEING DISADVANTAGED BY BY THESE SURPLUS FUNDS NOT BEING USED .

6.CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT MADE ANY FUNDING DECISIONS ABOUT MAINTAINED NURSERY SCHOOLS AND ARE INFACT URGING LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO HOLD OFF DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR LONGER TERM FUTURES

.7. THERE WILL BE LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXSISTING STAFF TO GAIN EMPLOYMENT AT HETTON PRIMARY SO EXPERTISE WILL BE LOST .

8. ASBESTOS REMOVAL FROM THE EXSISTING BUILDING AT HETTON PRIMARY IS A MAJOR CONCERN TO PARENTS , ALONG WITHTHE FACT THAT CHILDREN WILL BE PLACED IN TEMPORARY CLASSROOMS FOR AN UNDETERMINED LENGTH OF TIME .NOT AN IDEAL ENVIRONMENT !

9. THE INCREASE IN CARS ON AN ALREADY CONGESTED ROAD WILL BRING MORE PROBLEMS TO TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT IN THE AREA AND RESIDENTS OF PEAT CARR AND MOORSLEY WILL BE PUT UNDER ADDITIONAL PRESSURE OF CARS TAKING SHORTCUTS THROUGH THEIR STREETS . FACTOR IN THE INCREASE IN NEW HOUSING AROUND THIS AREA WHERE EACH NEW UNIT BUILT HAS 2.5 CARS AND IT IS OBVIOUS THE INFRASTRUCTURE WILL NOT COPE .

10.THERE WAS NO PRE CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMUNITY ON THIS MATTER ,

11.THIS PLAN IS GOING TO ALLOW THE LOSS OF A HIGHLY PRIZED COMMUNIY ASSET AND THE ONLY OFSTED GRADED NURSERY IN HETTON ,SIMPLY IN THE INTEREST OF COST CUTTING .

12. THE HASTE AT WHICH THIS CLOSURE IS BEING PROPELLED IS DIABOLICAL AND SHOWS A TOTAL LACK OF CONSIDERATION OF ANY OF THE ABOVE POINTS AND FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE , PARENTS ,CHILDREN AND TEACHERS.

13. THE POSTION OF THE NURSERY AT PRESENT IS IN THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY ,IT IS A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE CHILDREN , NO TRAFFIC ISSUES AND IT GIVES PEACE OF MIND TO BOTH PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN TO CONTINUE IN THIS SETTING , WHERE THEIR CHILDREN ARE RECEIVING THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF CARE .

I MIGHT ALSO COMMENT THAT THE REPORT BY MR ROWAN WHILST BEING INDEPTH AND LENGTHY APPEARED VERY CONTRADICTORY .

MY ENDING COMMENT IS THIS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A FORGONE CONCLUSION FROM THE GET GO !

PUBLIC CONSULTATION , I THINK NOT !!!!!

I WOULD URGE YOU TO RETHINK YOUR STANCE ON THE CLOSURE OF THIS EXCELLENT FACILITY !

COUNCILLOR SUSAN WATERSTON ,

From: < >

Sent: 19 March 2021 16:36

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth Williamson <Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Response to consultation

Importance: High

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To whom it may concern,

Please find attached my response to the proposed closure of Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School.

Kind regards

Headteacher

Hylton Red House Nursery School
Education Centre

Rotherham Road
Road

Sunderland

Tyne and Wear

SR5 5QL

0191 5488000

Thorney Close Early

Enterprise Centre, Thorndale

Sunderland

Tyne and Wear

SR3 4JQ

0191 5614164

19.03.2021

RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION TO CLOSE HETTON-LE-HOLE MAINTAINED NURSERY SCHOOL

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in response to the open consultation on the proposed closure of Hetton-Le-Hole maintained nursery school. I understand from the proposal that the primary reason for the proposal is financial. It is also made clear that the second reason given for closure is to 'safeguard wider sufficiency' in the area.

"The government remains committed to funding for maintained nursery schools in the longer term" (Nick Gibb, Minister of State for the Department of Education, on 31st October 2019).

Recent messages from ministers have echoed this commitment by advising decision makers not to rush into closing nursery schools before a long-term decision has been made by parliament

regarding their future funding. Children's Minister Vicky Ford said in November 2020 "We've already committed to longer-term funding for these nurseries and will set out our intentions soon."

The opening and closing maintained schools document states:

"The presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools;

Proposers should be aware that decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools. This does not mean that a maintained nursery school will never close, but that the case for closure should be strong."

I worry that this decision is being considered contrary to DfE advice to local authorities to not close a maintained nursery based on deficit budgets whilst they consider longer term funding solutions for the maintained nursery sector.

I also worry that the argument is to safeguard wider sufficiency, and that the closure of a school is seen as the best course of action? I wonder if the impact of providing permission

for the opening a private childcare provider within half a mile of the school has had impact in any way on the sufficiency within that postcode area?

Anecdotally I have heard Councillors mention that the area has more maintained nursery provision than the rest of the city "so it will not be bereft of Nursery school provisions whereas other parts of the city are not so well served". I'm afraid this reveals a predetermined attitude towards the future of Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School, and seems to disregard local parent opinion. You acknowledge yourselves within the proposal that there remains a local preference from parents for nursery schools over nursery classes – yet your proposal is to encourage parents to access a nursery class.

Does this suggest the council are not using local consultation to inform this decision?

There is speculation in the proposal that the closure of Hetton-Le-Hole would strengthen other maintained nursery provision. However, this can only be speculation – parents have the power to choose where their child attends and at present have a good range of options available to them in Hetton. For some parents, the choice will be PVI, for others it will be the quality of a nursery school. However, I would suspect that a parent priority for the very youngest children would be distance to travel and ease of walking with a pram / very young child. Parents have chosen to send their child to Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School for a reason and to remove that school will not necessarily result in parents choosing to send their child where the council want them to (ie the newly agreed primary school). It would simply reduce the choice for parents in Hetton.

Financially, it is important to consider the impact of Covid-19 on the nursery, and I am aware that the nursery has incurred approximately £75,000 of costs directly linked to coping with the pandemic. The government has failed early years on a number of levels, but particularly on a financial level maintained nursery schools have suffered deeply. They cannot benefit from government Covid relief provided to schools (despite being a school) and yet they cannot benefit from rates relief or other benefits open to the PVI sector.

However, my response to this consultation is not focussed upon the short term financial impact of Covid-19, as this is an issue that has hit all nurseries. It would be unfair to consider the financial impact of 20-21 in this consultation at all. My response is focussed upon the wider issues and impact of the closure of this long standing, much loved nursery school.

Within the proposal, the financial information provided indicates that the in-year deficit was actually reduced in 2019-20 and has continued to reduce overall. There isn't an explanation for this within the proposal. It isn't clear if the 20-21 in-year deficit includes Covid incurred costs up to January 21 (I acknowledge it does not include Covid costs from January 2021 onwards). I also question at what point this information was gathered as a snapshot, as nursery budgets fluctuate across a year and it is difficult to say with any degree of certainty what the end of year bottom line will be (let alone a 3 year forecast).

I wonder what the financial story was for previous years (pre 2018)? As I have mentioned, 20-21 is an outlier year due to Covid and it seems unfair to use numbers on roll / financial position of this 20-21 year as part of forecasting, and as a reason to close the nursery entirely?

In the proposal, the term 'despite additional financial support' is used and I worry this may be misleading to the general public. This refers to the lump sum that each of the maintained nurseries receive but the way it is worded sounds like additional financial support from the council has been directed to the nursery to help reduce the deficit. To my knowledge, this has not been the case?

As a Headteacher of a maintained nursery school in Sunderland, I understand the difficulties the nursery has faced on a financial level and believe that Ruth and her staff have done all they can to make savings to the budget year on year. We all know that there have been funding issues that are stacked against maintained nursery schools for some time. However, I feel that it is important for Sunderland Council to show support for each of the nurseries at a time when decisions around funding from central government are still pending – particularly the lump sum.

I am not entirely sure that the basis for the proposed closure of the nursery is 'strong' if the issue of the deficit budget was disregarded?

Has the council explored other options before arriving at the decision of full closure?

If so, who has been involved in this consultation and has it involved the nursery school directly?

Are there opportunities to use the nursery site for development that would benefit from the nursery being closed?

Kind regards

From:

Sent: 19 March 2021 18:01

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le hole Outstanding Nursery

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- Dear sir/madam

- My 3yr old brother has been attending Hetton le Hole nursery since he was 12 months old. He loves been there and has made so many friends.
- He will be starting school in September 2022. If his nursery is closed it means he will have to move from his safe place which he loves, to a different setting where his friends might not go to plus he won't have his teachers. He will be there for a year and then have to move to a new school and do it all again. This will have a major impact on his emotional well being.
- Hetton le hole nursery have helped and supported not only my brother but us as a family.
- My brother was recently diagnosed with a rare brain defect and all staff and Ruth have communicated with his health professionals to put a plan in place to help with his educational and complex needs. They have gone above and beyond to help him. Another reason we are really concerned about him having to move from nursery to nursery and then school. It could take months for another nursery to learn his needs.
- My brother is learning makaton sign language at nursery. They have trained staff who are amazing and he's picking it up really good. They have also given us help sheets so we can learn at home. We've looked around and do not see any other nursery that have trained staff in this field.
- My brother will NOT be attending Hetton primary, so why would we move him to the nursery for a year when he's in a perfectly outstanding nursery now.
- Putting children into Porter cabins and asbestos class rooms is really bad for their health. Esp for nursery aged children. I worked in construction and no full well the dangers of building sites, with dust, rubble, cement etc. Which is made more dangerous with children under 4yr old been put in that environment. Not only that but putting any child in a Porter cabin is bad for their learning (whether nursery or not) as I myself had spent a year of my own education in Porter cabins on a building site so I know the effects it can have.

- A big concern is Hetton primary is right next to a busy road with no parking and also right next to Hetton comprehensive. So you have the danger of construction workers, more busy traffic and older children, with no parking. Doesn't take much for an older child to push one of the little ones into the road.
- Why will SSC not use the underspend to help out Hetton le Hole nursery and others that are facing closure?
- Hetton le hole nursery is set back away from roads and other schools. There is also a car park.
- The nursery garden has everything. There are nature walks, trees, etc. Not paving slabs like other nurseries around. One of the reasons my parents decided to send my brother to Hetton le hole and not one of the others.
- The nursery is not just a place for our children to learn but to make friends and also the whole nursery are like family. The care you receive from them all is outstanding. We would be heartbroken if the nursery were to close and all the children had to find somewhere else. They might not even get into a nursery that is close to where we live. Hetton le nursery is practically in our doorstep.

We really hope you listen to us all and take everything into consideration. We will do anything and everything we can to keep our much loved nursery open.

From: <>

Sent: 19 March 2021 18:17

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery

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I feel it's wrong to close Hetton-le-Hole nursery based on their deficit, especially as it's not due to mismanagement, but rather the system in place allocating funding and essential costs needed to maintain a nursery. For the past 2 years nursery's in general have seen an increase to their deficits and Hetton-le-Hole nursery have seen nothing of the millions of pounds our council received from central government to cover covid losses. Also, I believe government is requesting closures such as this are deferred until educational funding decisions have been made by Parliament. As a father I want the very best start for my daughter. I don't believe a temporary prefab with children packed in can provide her anywhere near the same standard of education and care that she is receiving from the highly qualified and experienced staff at Hetton-le-Hole nursery.

I worry the upheaval for closing the nursery will have a lasting negative impact on my daughter and urge the council to reconsider the closure, unless they can guarantee she will receive the same level

of outstanding teaching/care and will have access to similar outdoor space and activities provided now at Hetton-le-Hole nursery.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 19 March 2021 18:51

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton Nursery School

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

To Whom it may concern.

I strongly object to the proposed closure of the above Nursery School.

The closure of this nursery will cause all sorts of problems for parents of pre-school children in the area.

This nursery is centrally located for the new properties that are being built at Broomhill & Hetton Downs areas as well as the already well populated central Hetton area,

It is situated next to a large car park making it safe when dropping off & collecting children.

This is the only Nursery in the area which is rated Outstanding by Ofsted.

I personally think if this nursery is closed it would be detrimental to the area.

Regards

(Grandparent of a 2year old)

From:

Sent: 19 March 2021 23:30

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton nursery school.

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As many locals of Hetton Le Hole i am writing to say i disagree with the planning of the closure of hetton nursery school. A well known community nursery which has been around the longest out of every other nursery around Hetton area. Great ofstead reports and great support for children which attend and have previously attended.

NO TO THE CLOSURE OF HETTON NURSERY SCHOOL.

We as a community want this nursery to remain open.

Regards

From: < >

Sent: 20 March 2021 13:28

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection of closure

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

To whom it may concern

I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole because:

1. Sunderland City Council has failed to comply with the Department of Education Guidance of November 2019 of giving the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools.
2. Sunderland City Council has permitted and encouraged unfair competition by allowing numerous private nurseries to undercut state schools.
3. Sunderland City Council has been derelict in its duties by not actively involving and discussing with the Nursery, its governors, residents, families and Hetton Town Council possible ways to overcome the difficulties of falling roll numbers.
4. Sunderland City Council has not provided any Covid-19 relief funds to the Nursery despite having received many millions from central government.
5. Sunderland City Council has failed to provide additional funding for this Nursery and other maintained nurseries to clear any outstanding deficits despite having an underspend of over £4 million.
6. The budget forecast produced by Sunderland City Council to 'justify' the closure is inaccurate and forecast additional pupils will eliminate the projected deficit.
7. Sunderland City Council deliberately distorted facts relating to the uplift given to the Nursery as the reason for at least one other nursery school going into deficit.
8. Sunderland City Council will be putting the Health and Safety of young and vulnerable children from the Nursery at risk by transferring them to temporary demountable classrooms /asbestos ridden reconfigured building for a period of up to 3 years.
9. Sunderland City Council's Cabinet took the decision to move forward to a statutory consultation 5 days before the pre consultation closed and this did not permit all responses to be considered.

From: < >

Sent: 20 March 2021 16:15

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject:

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

Sent from my iPhone

For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee,

I write to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School. It had been a huge part of my family for many generation and now my son goes to the school and has done since she was 18 months old. Due to covid he has become exceptionally clingy with me and becomes extremely distressed if he is not with a familiar adult. He loves his nursery and the staff he has known from starting this outstanding school in the baby room. This results in him being happy and ready to learn in a place where he feels safe and secure. To close the nursery when so many young children are so severely affected emotionally and socially by the pandemic we find ourselves in, is unbelievably irresponsible and neglectful of the council. The impact on children like my son should be the first priority of the council, not finances. We the parents have started a fund raising page and are hell bent on raising as much as possible to help. The cost of moving children to new settings away from peers and staff, they have for the last year treated as their family when actual family have been kept at arms reach is deplorable. This could not only result in the council still having the outstanding deficit and redundancy fees incurred, but also an increased number of children including my son needing additional emotional support at an increased cost to new setting and thus the council. I urge you to reconsider the this and put the children's well being first in a time when they need stability most. The parents, school staff, Hetton Town Council and school governors are more than willing to set an agreed financial plan with the council to ensure the deficit does not increase in this next year and they can work on reducing the deficit. No members of the council have engaged in conversations around a financial plan with all stakeholders and those most directly impacted by this decision, the parents. I have had numerous sleepless nights caused by this and the upset at the councils inability to have these conversations and set action plans to make this nursery once again viable. It seems from what we have looked into as concerned parents there are still avenues and financial options available that could be explored and exhausted first before a council even considers closing a nursery. As far as any of us are concerned this has not been done!

Yours sincerely

From < >

Sent: 20 March 2021 18:57

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>;

Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton Nursery Closure

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To whom it may concern,

I have sat for weeks thinking about what i want to say and how i want to say it. But to be honest i dont think you will listen.

For months during a world wide pandemic you havent listened to what we've said! To what we've asked!

We have isolated and sheilded, lost personal contact with family and friends, kept ourselves and others safe and still you havent listened!

Our little ones have been kept safe and supported by the amazing staff at Hetton Nursery and still you havent listened!

We have feared for our families, our health, our income, our normality and still you havent listened!

We've sat on town council zoom meetings voicing our opinions, needs, demands and still you havent listened!

So why would you listen now?

Why?

Because we your constituents are shouting from the roof tops we DO NOT want this nursery closed!

WE WANT YOU TO FINALLY LISTEN!!

The nursery is in a financial defecit, we know. But you have let it flounder! You could of bailed it out years ago and supported the management in allowing it to become self-sustaining. And before you say it cant be done, i will tell you yes it can! Over a decade ago Newcastle council tried to close all 5 of its community nurseries, but unlike you they allowed the senior staff to put in a financial business plan, and it worked! The nurseries are now self-sustaining and bring in a profit. Arent our children worth that? Arent our most vulnerable members of society worth the time?

We know of the £4 million underspend and i actually cant put into sufficient words how disgusted and enraged i feel towards you, how you feel its been ok to with hold that money from our childrens learning and development and how you feel you had the right to do it!

I tell you now;

I will not put my children into a nursery (Hetton Primary) that is below average in its learning/ results.

I will not put my children into port-a-cabins.

I will not put my children into an asbestos riddled setting.

I will not put my children into a nursery school next to a main road that has countless accidents and parking issues.

And I WILL NOT take my children from an OUTSTANDING nursery and put them into one that isnt!

Maybe now is the time for you to finally do what your meant to do!

Now is the time to LISTEN!

With Regards

Parent of twins currently attending Hetton Nursery

Previous attendee

Wife of previous attendee

Daughter of previous attendee

Cousin of previous attendee's

Sister in law of previous attendee's

Neighbour of previous and current attendee's

Friend of previous attendee's

From: < >

Sent: 20 March 2021 19:45

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Save hetton nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

This nursery has been part of Hetton for many years and I see no valid reason to why it should close. Yes there may be other nurseries in the area but nothing central that provides what Hetton nursery does. The school attached nursery at Hetton Primary and Eppleton only offer a space from 3 years and even then why would people want to travel when there is a perfectly good nursery on the doorstep. The private nurseries in Hetton may offer from birth but the size of the rooms are ridiculous and I certainly wouldnt want my children attending any of the private nurseries in Hetton area. The outside spaces are shocking aswel where as Hetton nursery has that lovely big garden filled with so many opportunities for the children. The staff are also a lovely team of people and clearly very dedicated.

I feel that your decision to close would not be fair and you definitely havent thought about the children and families of Hetton because if you had the closure of the nursery would never have been discussed.

Lets hope you do the right thing and you see how much of an asset Hetton nursery is to our area. Keep Hetton nursery open!

From: < >

Sent: 20 March 2021 20:09

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject:

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee,

I write to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School. It had been a huge part of Hetton and my family for many generation now. I wen to this outstanding nursery and would be devastated to see it be no more.

To close the nursery when so many young children are so severely affected emotionally and socially by the pandemic we find ourselves in, is unbelievably irresponsible and neglectful of the council. The impact on the children should be the first priority of the council, not finances. The cost of moving children to new settings away from peers and staff, they have for the last year treated as their family when actual family have been kept at arms reach is deplorable. This could not only result in the council still having the outstanding deficit and redundancy fees incurred, but also an increased number of children including family members children needing additional emotional support at an increased cost to new setting and thus the council. I urge you to reconsider this and put the children first in a time when they need stability most. The parents, school staff, Hetton Town Council and school governors are more than willing to set an agreed financial plan with the council to ensure the deficit does not increase in this next year and they can work on reducing the deficit. No members of the council have engaged in conversations around a financial plan with all stakeholders and those most directly impacted by this decision. It is unbelievable the councils inability to have these conversations and set a action plan, from what has been looked into there are still avenues and financial options available that could be explored and exhausted first before a council even considers closing a nursery. As far as any of us are concerned this has not been done!

Yours sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 20 March 2021 20:14

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Response to consultation on Hetton Nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Good evening,

I would like to formally object to the proposed closure of Hetton Nursery School, as outlined in the recent consultation ending on 23rd March.

I have several close friends with children attending the nursery and it's clear that this nursery means a lot to them and the Hetton le Hole community. The proposal to close and tear away what has been a solid and stable foundation for these children during the COVID pandemic is preposterous, they have had enough upheaval. This nursery has been rated outstanding and is catering for several children with additional learning needs, something that simply cannot be met anywhere else nearby at the present time. There is no other outstanding rated nursery school in the area, and none with the high quality of facilities and staff that Hetton has. Closing this nursery at such a precarious time could have long-standing negative impact on the future learning and development of these children.

The intended approach to ship these children across to Hetton Primary is ill-thought out and has gaping holes and issues. The current traffic around Hetton Primary is already causing problems (case and point a car accident just this week) and having more children attending will exacerbate the issue. Aside from the fact that Hetton Primary is not currently sufficiently equipped to meet the needs of these children and that reconfiguration of the building will mean the children in transition are potentially learning in prefabs or at risk of asbestos exposure.

There is a solid financial proposal from Hetton Nursery to increase fees in line with other nurseries and promote their services to nearby new builds, to increase their child spaces and repay the £200k deficit they have found themselves in through what appears to be a mix of budget cuts and insufficient allocation of funds from the council (rather than any mismanagement of finance by the nursery). The nursery's plan needs to be seriously considered by the council and not dismissed or not given time for, which has happened in recent meetings. The "tick box exercise" that these parents and children seem to have been subjected to is shocking, and I can see that a lot of Hetton & Houghton Labour voters are at risk of turning their backs on their local Labour MP because of their failure to passionately get behind their cause.

To spend millions of pounds changing around another school rather than giving a chance to a perfectly good existing one, which has 75 years of heritage in this community, seems ludicrous. Indeed, the Department for Education says that maintained nursery schools shouldn't be closed solely due to a deficit budget, yet no other reasons have been given for the council's proposal to close. The closure proposal is short sighted, the community are rallying around this nursery to save it for the future of their children and the heritage of their village, and I stand with them wholeheartedly.

Regards,

From: < >

Sent: 20 March 2021 20:19

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject:

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee,

I write to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School. My son goes to the school and has done since she was 18 months old. Due to covid he has become exceptionally clingy and becomes extremely distressed if he is not with a familiar adult. He loves his nursery and the staff he has known from starting this amazing school in the baby room. This results in him being happy and ready to learn in a place where he feels safe and secure. To close the nursery when so many young children are so severely affected emotionally and socially by the pandemic we find ourselves in, is both irresponsible and neglectful of the council. The impact on children like my son should be the first priority of the council, not finances. The cost of moving children to new settings away from

peers and staff, they have for the last year treated as their family without proper time for them to adjust to a new and busier world, could not only result in the council still having the outstanding deficit and redundancy fees incurred, but also an increased number of children including my son needing additional emotional support at an increased cost to new setting and thus the council. I urge you to reconsider the timing of this and put the children's well being first in a time when they need stability most. The parents, school staff, Hetton Town Council and school governors are more than willing to set an agreed financial plan with the council to ensure the deficit does not increase in this next year and they can work on reducing the deficit. No members of the council have engaged in conversations around a financial plan with all stakeholders and those most directly impacted by this decision, the parents. I have had numerous sleepless nights be wise of the worry caused by this and the upset at the councils inability to have these conversations and set action plans to make this nursery once again viable. It is evident that if there are still avenues and financial options available that could be explored that all of these options should be explored and exhausted first before a council even considers closing a nursery. This has not been done.

Yours sincerely

From: <>

Sent: 20 March 2021 20:21

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.willamson@schhols.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton Nursery

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee,

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Yours sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 20 March 2021 20:30

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Save our nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

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Yours sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 20 March 2021 20:33

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject:

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Yours sincerely

From: <

Sent: 20 March 2021 20:35

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject:

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Yours sincerely

From: <>

Sent: 20 March 2021 20:37

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Consultation on proposed closure of Hetton Nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to object to the proposal to close the Hetton-Le-Hole nursery school attended by our grandchild.

In a year of great social upheaval and financial hurt for families the stability of providing good solid foundations to our future generations to develop and succeed is of paramount performance.

To close an outstanding early learning and development centre seems like at best shortsighted by the City Council.

Ofsted have rated this nursery highly this is due to the qualified and specialist staff working and nurturing the children that attend there to provide a good foundation for the future of the children. What is the future for these dedicated staff? and how will the children displaced adapt?

Comparisons cannot be made on financial accountability when these types of nursery are not playing on a level playing field with private run nurseries especially when early learning budgets are cut and the necessary investment not given or complex financial reporting processes override all of the positives. But like any figures these can be manipulated to put a positive or negative spin depending on the desired outcome when the real outcome is the social impact faced by real people. Which if based upon financial information around a deficit seems to go against DFE guidance.

The purpose of maintained nurseries was to improve life chances for young people, i find it abhorrent that Local Government appear to be riding roughshod over the needs of the community and remove a well performing established and respected nursery to create an expensive and potential white elephant, has the Local Authority carried out any meaningful public consultation to

establish if existing pupils parents will use this facility or to fill up occupancy levels what further cuts to services will be required.

I hope that the Council look further into parents, community and staff objections but most of all the needs and effect this decision would have on the children themselves.

From: < >

Sent: 20 March 2021 20:42

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>;
ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee,

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Yours sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 20 March 2021 20:47

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruthwilliamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton nursery

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Yours sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 20 March 2021 21:13

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Proposed closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery school

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Hello,

I am writing to voice my concerns over the proposed closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery School. My daughter has attended since September and has made so much progression both academically and socially.

The Nursery is the only outstanding nursery in the area and has produced outstanding data year on year. As I teacher myself I know how much hard work the team must put in everyday to achieve this.

The nursery has a highly skilled workforce including a SENCO, teacher and nursery nurses who provide the very best experiences for the children in their care. My little girl comes out of nursery smiling everyday and is always full of stories of all the wonderful things that she has been doing.

The idea of moving the children to Hetton primary school and placing them in temporary classrooms whilst the new space is being built will be extremely unsettling for the children. This has also taken away the parents choice of where to send their children. We all have the right to send our children to a setting which we believe is the best for our children and Hetton Le Hole Nursery School is certainly that setting.

The nursery not only nurtures the children in their setting but the families within the local community who have been hit hard during the coronavirus pandemic. Closing the nursery would remove a huge support network for a community that needs it the most.

Closing this Nursery would not only be a huge loss for the local community but also for early education itself as it is an outstanding example of best practise and should be showcased as an example to all in the profession.

I hope you take on board the concerns of everyone fighting hard to save this wonderful Nursery!

Thank you for taking the time to read my email

From: < >

Sent: 20 March 2021 21:21

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le hole nursery school

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Hello,

This email is being sent to you in order to give my full support in Hetton Le Hole Nursery School staying open.

I am a member of the community, a parent, I have family members attending this amazing nursery and I am a qualified Nursery Nurse who worked in another nursery in Hetton until that closed it's doors in 2016 and I can't begin to tell you the devastation my redundancy brought to me and my children during normal times. I couldn't begin to imagine having to cope with that during this pandemic yet that is what the staff of Hetton nursery school may well face!

I am also a mother to a disabled boy and I was fully supportive of this nursery staying open from day one but what really drove me to want to help, was listening to the parents of the SEN children at the nursery. They made me understand why it's the ONLY nursery in Hetton that is rated outstanding, the only nursery to give exceptional, above and beyond support and care to not only the disabled and SEN children but every child attending the nursery. That standard of care can't be found anywhere else in Hetton and sunderland council want to take that away from those children. The standard of care doesn't just come from the staff, it comes from resources and the environment in which they're in. They need their nursery! That building is the foundation in which that nursery family grows.

Children need stability, they need warmth, they need to feel safe, they need a happy environment and I'm afraid portacabins will never cut it.. ever! Would sunderland council want their children to go from having space and freedom and nature to be sitting a pokey portacabin?!

Everytime I ever hear anything in discussion about the closure of the nursery, nothing is ever mentioned about what is in the best interests of the children (and staff) and that really saddens me.

What people need to remember though, is that during covid, the council never provided any covid-19 relief funds to the nursery despite being given millions from the government to help out businesses and as a result, the nursery incurred a financial loss this year. To try and find solutions, the nursery have consulted with parents and agreed to increase nursery prices which will make a yearly profit of thousands of pounds and our community have also so far raised around £3000 and further plans are in place to raise more so as you can see real efforts are being made and will continue to be made for as long as it takes.

The village has already lost Barnard Cafe, The Hetton Centre during the pandemic where members of our community were made redundant and left heartbroken. The staff were more like a family to the community and so is this nursery. Please don't let our village of Hetton Le Hole, lose another wonderful long standing business. This nursery has been the heart of our community for the past 75 years and none of us want to see it go.

Thank you.

From: < >

Sent: 20 March 2021 21:22

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth.williamson@schools.Sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton-le-hole Nursery School

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Yours sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 20 March 2021 21:53

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>;

ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton nursery

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Yours sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 20 March 2021 22:29

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>;

ruth.williamson@sunderlandschool.gov.uk

Subject: Closure of hetton nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Hi I would like to object about the closure of our lovely little hetton nursery school ... I done my works experience in there over 36years ago and I can honestly say it is a beautiful friendly well

educated nursery... my 3 children also attended there and also my grandson in which case they absolutely loved every minute of it. The care and dedication of every single member of staff is phenomenal.. its situated in a lovely spot of hetton le hole and would be a real shame to the youngster's aswell as the staff and parents/ grandparents etc if it were to close... please save our nursery #savehettonnurseryschool.

From: <>
Sent: 20 March 2021 22:35
To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>
Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk
Subject: Object

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

I object to this consultation because not only has this nursery been rated outstanding, it is a lovely little nursery which has been a big part of our community for many years. I for one would be very sad to see it close!

From:
Date: 21/03/2021 00:19 (GMT+00:00)
To: schholorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk
Subject: closure of hetton nursery

I wish to state my objection to the closure

Of this outstanding nursery.This nursery has been teaching our children for over 70 years and has been rated outstanding by Ofsted.Why would you want to close such

An asset to our village.While I do not object to a new school and nursery I feel.that this nursery should remain open at is more central and carers for under two years .As I understand it the new facility will not do so.With all the new builds that are taking

Place in Hetton I think that there will be insufficient early years places.Also the traffic at the moment on the existing road

Infrastructure is horrendous at drop off and pick up times so the situation will be much worse.I strongly object and feel that Sunderland City Council has once again failed to listen to the public.

-----Original Message-----

From: <>
Sent: 21 March 2021 06:47
To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>
Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk
Subject:

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee,

I write to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School. It has been a huge part of Hetton and my family for many generations now. I went to this outstanding nursery and would be devastated to see it be no more.

To close the nursery when so many young children are so severely affected emotionally and socially by the pandemic we find ourselves in, is unbelievably irresponsible and neglectful of the council. The impact on the children should be the first priority of the council, not finances. The cost of moving children to new settings away from peers and staff, they have for the last year treated as their family when actual families have been kept at arms reach is deplorable. This could not only result in the council still having the outstanding deficit and redundancy fees incurred, but also an increased number of children including family members' children needing additional emotional support at an increased cost to new settings and thus the council. I urge you to reconsider this and put the children first in a time when they need stability most. The parents, school staff, Hetton Town Council and school governors are more than willing to set an agreed financial plan with the council to ensure the deficit does not increase in this next year and they can work on reducing the deficit. No members of the council have engaged in conversations around a financial plan with all stakeholders and those most directly impacted by this decision. It is unbelievable the council's inability to have these conversations and set an action plan, from what has been looked into there are still avenues and financial options available that could be explored and exhausted first before a council even considers closing a nursery. As far as any of us are concerned this has not been done!

Yours sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 07:34

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection to the closing of Hetton Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Hi

Due to this wretched lockdown, we have been unable to campaign effectively, to the point where we get the whole community behind us. However, we have found no one that supports the closure of this Nursery.

We have strong support, to keep this nursery open, and the team have demonstrated clearly that they have a plan in place to increase the financial viability of the nursery.

I am still convinced that your holistic approach is fundamentally flawed, taking children from a safe, nurturing and effective environment, to put them in what I consider to be a location that is dangerous. I can't speak as an expert on education, but in my opinion your decision making process is poor, aiming to get rid of everyone who works at Hetton Nursery. You focus on money and Tory austerity on one hand while receiving government money for the new school. I honestly am confused, as to the reasons this nursery is to be closed, they have provided excellent results, and I thought that is why they were there.

The staff, parents, hetton town council and the wider community have come together to save this nursery, and they will take it as a real smack in the face from the city council should it close.

Just in case I did not make it clear i object to the closure of Hetton Nursery School

Kind Regards

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 07:46

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Closure of Hetton nursery

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

> For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee,

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>

> Yours sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 07:46

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: closure

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Yours sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 07:58

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>;

ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton nursery

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Yours sincerely

From: <>

Sent: 21 March 2021 08:05

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le hole nursery

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For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee,

I write to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School. It has been a huge part of Hetton and my family for many generation now. I wen to this outstanding nursery and would be devastated to see it be no more.

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Yours sincerely

From: <>

Sent: 21 March 2021 08:18

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk
Subject: Hetton Nursery Closure

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

To whom it may concern,

I am writing again to formally object to the closure of Hetton Nursery.

I believe the council are making a terrible decision in closing this fabulous 5 star rated ofsted establishment.

The children are settled, moving them into prefabs whilst the new building is constructed will not only unsettle them, you are removing them from surroundings they are comfortable with where they are excelling and growing.

The closure is unnecessary. I do not agree at all !

Won't we need additional nursery spaces as well as Hetton nursery to accommodate all of the additional children expected from all the new builds in the area ?????

I do not object to the building of the new nursery but I object massively to this decision it is wrong! Our children need stability and that's what Hetton Nursery gives. To close it would be obscene !

Traffic chaos for the surrounding area is also a huge concern of mine. We have already this week seen an accident at the site of the new school, and increased numbers will inevitably cause safety issues for both the children and residents !!

DO NOT GO AGAINST THE COMMUNITIES WISHES! LEAVE HETTON NURSERY OPEN !!

Regards

From: <>
Sent: 21 March 2021 08:23
To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>
Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk
Subject: Hetton Le Hole Nursery

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For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee,

I write to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School. It has been a huge part of Hetton and my family for many generation now. I wen to this outstanding nursery and would be devastated to see it be no more.

To close the nursery when so many young children are so severely affected emotionally and socially by the pandemic we find ourselves in, is unbelievably irresponsible and neglectful of the council. The impact on the children should be the first priority of the council, not finances. The cost of moving children to new settings away from peers and staff, they have for the last year treated as their family when actual family have been kept at arms reach is deplorable. This could not only result in the council still having the outstanding deficit and redundancy fees incurred, but also an increased number of children including family members children needing additional emotional support at an increased cost to new setting and thus the council. I urge you to reconsider this and put the children first in a time when they need stability most. The parents, school staff, Hetton Town Council and school governors are more than willing to set an agreed financial plan with the council to ensure the deficit does not increase in this next year and they can work on reducing the deficit. No members of the council have engaged in conversations around a financial plan with all stakeholders and those most directly impacted by this decision. It is unbelievable the councils inability to have these conversations and set a action plan, from what has been looked into there are still avenues and financial options available that could be explored and exhausted first before a council even considers closing a nursery. As far as any of us are concerned this has not been done!

Yours sincerely

From: <>

Sent: 21 March 2021 08:39

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.yk

Subject: Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

I write to raise my concerns regarding the possible closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery.

I am absolutely against the closure of the nursery as it is the only outstanding nursery in the area.

Family have previously attended the nursery and i feel it is a huge part of the community. The value in the community has been seen from the public response to the consultation!

I feel that Sunderland need to listen to the families and step up to support this nursery.

Regards

From: <>

Sent: 21 March 2021 08:46

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le hole Nursery school

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For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee,

I write to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School. It has been a huge part of Hetton and my family for many generation now. I wen to this outstanding nursery and would be devastated to see it be no more.

To close the nursery when so many young children are so severely affected emotionally and socially by the pandemic we find ourselves in, is unbelievably irresponsible and neglectful of the council. The impact on the children should be the first priority of the council, not finances.

The cost of moving children to new settings away from peers and staff, they have for the last year treated as their family when actual family have been kept at arms reach is deplorable. This could not only result in the council still having the outstanding deficit and redundancy fees incurred, but also an increased number of children including family members children needing additional emotional support at an increased cost to new setting and thus the council.

I urge you to reconsider this and put the children first in a time when they need stability most. The parents, school staff, Hetton Town Council and school governors are more than willing to set an agreed financial plan with the council to ensure the deficit does not increase in this next year and they can work on reducing the deficit. No members of the council have engaged in conversations around a financial plan with all stakeholders and those most directly impacted by this decision.

It is unbelievable the councils inability to have these conversations and set a action plan, from what has been looked into there are still avenues and financial options available that could be explored and exhausted first before a council even considers closing a nursery. As far as any of us are concerned this has not been done!

Yours sincerely,

From:

Sent: 21 March 2021 08:46

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le hole nursery objection

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

To whom it may concern,

As a local resident of Hetton le Hole, I object to the closure of a well established outstanding nursery, with all of the new housing projects in the local area, it is such a waste of time and money building a new one rather than just spending a little clearing the deficit and marketing the remaining spaces in the future.

Many thanks

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 08:52

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I write to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School. It has been a huge part of Hetton and my family for many generation now. I wen to this outstanding nursery and would be devastated to see it be no more.

To close the nursery when so many young children are so severely affected emotionally and socially by the pandemic we find ourselves in, is unbelievably irresponsible and neglectful of the council. The impact on the children should be the first priority of the council, not finances. The cost of moving children to new settings away from peers and staff, they have for the last year treated as their family when actual family have been kept at arms reach is deplorable. This could not only result in the council still having the outstanding deficit and redundancy fees incurred, but also an increased number of children including family members children needing additional emotional support at an increased cost to new setting and thus the council. I urge you to reconsider this and put the children first in a time when they need stability most. The parents, school staff, Hetton Town Council and school governors are more than willing to set an agreed financial plan with the council to ensure the deficit does not increase in this next year and they can work on reducing the deficit. No members of the council have engaged in conversations around a financial plan with all stakeholders and those most directly impacted by this decision. It is unbelievable the councils inability to have these conversations and set a action plan, from what has been looked into there are still avenues and financial options available that could be explored and exhausted first before a council even considers closing a nursery. As far as any of us are concerned this has not been done!

Yours sincerely

From: <>

Sent: 21 March 2021 08:53

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton Nursery

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Yours sincerely

From:

Sent: 21 March 2021 08:57

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject:

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I wish to object to the closure of Hetton Nursery. This is an outstanding nursery and much loved by the community. I was volunteering there before lockdown and saw first hand how dedicated the staff are and how happy the children were. As a retired nursery nurse I could see the outstanding practice and commitment of the staff.

I know there will be a new nursery on the new school but that is for the future and with all the new builds in and around Hetton the community will probably need both nurseries.

Please listen to the community and DO NOT CLOSE THE NURSERY

Yours

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 09:05

To: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk; School Organisation
<schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject:

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For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee,

I write to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School. It has been a huge part of Hetton and my family for many generation now. I attended this outstanding nursery and my son will also in the near future, we would be devastated to see it be no more.

To close the nursery when so many young children are so severely affected emotionally and socially by the pandemic we find ourselves in, is unbelievably irresponsible and neglectful of the council. The impact on the children should be the first priority of the council, not finances. The cost of moving children to new settings away from peers and staff, they have for the last year treated as their family when actual family have been kept at arms reach is deplorable. This could not only result in the council still having the outstanding deficit and redundancy fees incurred, but also an increased number of children including family members children needing additional emotional support at an increased cost to new setting and thus the council. I urge you to reconsider this and put the children first in a time when they need stability most.

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Yours sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 09:23

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le Hole Nursery School closure

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Yours sincerely

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 09:30

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton Nursery closure

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

To whom it may concern

I write to formally object to the closure of Hetton Nursery, Hetton le Hole.

Why would the Council close a highly classed Ofsted facility? Surely when you look at all the new build homes currently being built in the area there will be a need for more child places.

Has not the current pandemic reaffirmed the need for smaller roomed premises where fewer individuals can be placed. Surely large modern rooms where large numbers of children will be together are going to be a thing of the past! So more premises needed rather than closures!

I am sure I will not be alone in lodging my objection.

Yours

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 09:44

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton Nursery Closure

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Yours sincerely

From: <>

Sent: 21 March 2021 09:49

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Objection to the closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

The action, by the Council, to consider the closure of the above nursery has left me feeling bemused.

Why on earth would you consider closing a nursery with an Ofsted grading of 'OUTSTANDING'. The action you intend to take is detrimental to the future of the children who use this nursery and all the children who would attend in the years to come. Too many children are not given the best start in life, which we hear and read in the media everyday, and here we have an 'OUTSTANDING' nursery which is facing closure! I am sure that the Council could find a solution so that the children of Hetton-le-Hole and surrounding area can still continue to attend this 'OUTSTANDING' nursery.

I hope that all options have been discussed before the final decision is made, please remember you are making a decision that could affect many young people's lives, I for one know how much this nursery enhanced my grandchildren's lives and I am forever grateful.

I also want to take this opportunity to praise the excellent staff who go above and beyond to make the children's experience at nursery a one that will stay with them.

The proposal to close this nursery is so sad I object strongly, I pray that a solution can be found, and soon.

(Grandparent)

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 09:55

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth Williamson <Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: objection to closure of Hetton le Hole nursery school

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

My name is Samantha Garside and I am currently a Nursery Officer at Hetton Le Hole Nursery School. I am writing to share my objections to the closure of the school. I have had the pleasure of working here for 17 years now and I am outraged by the proposal to close the school.

We are the only nursery in Hetton that have been graded 'outstanding' by Ofsted. This shows that there are no other nurseries in Hetton that can match our standard of education and meet the needs of children from birth to 5 years of age. Our data outcomes show that children make outstanding progress during their time with us.

It has been stated that there will be a building for two-year-olds and three-year-olds at Hetton Primary but there is no mention of space for a baby room provision. With our baby provision currently rated as 'outstanding', parents will be unable to access provision of a similar quality. Has it been taken into consideration the impact that this is going to have on the families of the babies that are currently in our baby room provision? How are the parents going to continue working without having childcare?

I would like to add that I feel like that there has been no support given to the staff during this time. We have been told on several occasions that there will be ring fenced jobs for us at Hetton Primary but then it has come to light that the school have already got people ready to fall into these vacancies. Where does this leave the nursery staff during this very difficult time where many people are losing their jobs through Covid?

My daughter travels to Hetton from outside the area to bring her daughter to the childcare provision with the intention of her transitioning into the main nursery in September. The nursery is close to local bus links and is very convenient for her. She has made it clear that she will not be admitting her daughter to Hetton Primary if the proposal goes ahead. Her main reasons are around road safety concerns around Hetton Primary, with many accidents happening on Moorsley Road. She does not want her child at risk of serious harm. It seems like parental choice has been ignored during this whole process with parents being told where to take their children if the nursery was to close.

Why has the council not supported the nursery with funding which was allocated from central government to help clear of the deficit. I was also outraged to hear of the council's £4.14 million underspend in the Early Years, surely these funds could be used to save the nursery and properly fund all Maintained Nurseries?

Can the council not delay this closure because of the problems that Covid has caused? Other options have apparently been discussed, but these have not been shared with the staff?. Have the staff, families and most of all, the children not gone through enough uncertainty and anxiety over the last year. The nursery has been the only constant support throughout this time.

The nursery school has been in the centre of Hetton since 1945. The nursery community is a tight-knit family and I feel honoured to be a part of the nursery providing outstanding education and care to the children of Hetton. Parents and members of the community have come together as one to fundraise, pulling together ways to improve the nurseries financial situation. Can you find it in you to at least give us more time to rectify this financial burden? Or are finances more important than the quality of education?

I urge you to support our nursery.

21.03.2021

From:

Sent: 21 March 2021 10:01

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le hole nursery school

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To whom it may concern

I am against the closure of Hetton Le Hole nursery school.

At this current time we are all struggling as a community to get on with life the best we can while battling against covid. I personally feel as a nhs key worker this is adding extra stress to all family's and will most defiantly affect our children who have been through enough change.

Why close the only offstead outstanding nursery in Hetton Le Hole. This nursery is very much valued in our community.

Hetton Le Hole is a thriving village which is expending constantly with new housing developments. Closure of nursery's/schools will very much limits people. Numbers of children needing these facilities is going up.

I do hope this closure does not go ahead the community needs Hetton Le Hole nursery school to remain open.

Kind regards

From < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 10:03

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject:

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I would like to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole nursery school. My 3 year old currently attends and is very comfortable with this setting. It is very close to us and easy to get to should we need to pick him up. This nursery has a qualified SENDco specialised in early years and can support my child the most and have found no other nursery can offer what they can.

From:

Sent: 21 March 2021 10:25

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Save the Nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee,

I write to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School. It has been a huge part of Hetton and my family for many generation now. I wen to this outstanding nursery and would be devastated to see it be no more.

To close the nursery when so many young children are so severely affected emotionally and socially by the pandemic we find ourselves in, is unbelievably irresponsible and neglectful of the council. The impact on the children should be the first priority of the council, not finances. The cost of moving children to new settings away from peers and staff, they have for the last year treated as their family when actual family have been kept at arms reach is deplorable. This could not only result in the council still having the outstanding deficit and redundancy fees incurred, but also an increased number of children including family members children needing additional emotional support at an increased cost to new setting and thus the council. I urge you to reconsider this and put the children first in a time when they need stability most. The parents, school staff, Hetton Town Council and school governors are more than willing to set an agreed financial plan with the council to ensure the deficit does not increase in this next year and they can work on reducing the deficit. No members of the council have engaged in conversations around a financial plan with all stakeholders and those most directly impacted by this decision. It is unbelievable the councils inability to have these conversations and set a action plan, from what has been looked into there are still avenues and financial options available that could be explored and exhausted first before a council even considers closing a nursery. As far as any of us are concerned this has not been done!

Yours sincerely

From:

Sent: Saturday, March 20, 2021 10:25 PM

To: schoolsorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk <schoolsorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk <Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton Nursery

Good Morning

I object to the closure of Hetton Nursery and they should be given time to turn things around considering how this year has been through the pandemic for not only this nursery but for nurseries across the city and also how nursery was previously run with other staff

You will be well aware of the amount of support this nursery has had since consultation was announced and that support is building up by the day.

Sometimes in life its not all about the money and people have to look at the bigger picture and over the course of funding all schools in the city this is small in comparison to subsidize until it can be turned around and looking at figures supplied by school then it is achievable.

Closing this nursery will involve more travel for some parents as well as putting more strain on families, and what about Sunderland City Council and its carbon footprint policy, does that not count in this instance ?

I could sit here all day picking holes in this but hopefully someone sees sense and gives these people running this ofsted rated nursery a chance to thrive.

From < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 10:45

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Save Hetton le Hole Nursery School

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To Sunderland City Council,

This email is an email I feel very strongly about.

Please save Hetton le Hole Nursery School.

My son went there and now my grandchildren go there.

Its an Outstanding nursery, Ofstead reports are Outstanding to.

Why close a Nursery with this much excellence.

The finances are easy to get over.

Over £3000 has been raised by the community to keep this place going.

50p a head more per child will make a huge difference to keep this Nursery on its feet.

Please please please listen to all the objections and what this will mean to all the children who love going to this place to learn each day.

Kind regards

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 10:46

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Nursery closure

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I am emailing to express my concern and objection of the planned closure of Hetton le Hole nursery.

I believe this to be a great shame given the excellent reputation the nursery has in the community. Given the current climate I think it is essential that the children in the community have access to such a valuable setting.

Being a key worker I understand how vital it is to have an excellent early years setting that can provide a safe and enjoyable experience, vital not just for the children but for parents too.

Please reconsider and do not close this nursery.

Yours sincerely,

From: <

Sent: 21 March 2021 10:33

To: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk; School Organisation

<schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School Closure

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this email in support of Herron-le-Hole nursery, a nursery I feel strongly should not close. This nursery has important value within the community, especially in the current climate and uncertain times. This is a time when children and parents need routine and extra support. I really feel Sunderland Council should support and fight for this nursery to stay open.

Kind regards,

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 10:50

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Response to the proposed closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

To Whom It May Concern.

I wish to formally lodge my disagreement with the proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School.

I am a governor of the school and my eldest child went to the school.

Both my children went to Hetton Lyons Primary School and my eldest went to Hetton School.

I taught at Hetton School for over 20 years and was a governor there for 25 years.

I lived in Hetton for over 10 years before moving up the road to Haswell.

My main objections surround the reasons for the closure - cost and falling rolls.

As an ex teacher and current governor, I would have expected decisions/proposals to close a school would have been based mainly on the educational value its provides to the children of the City of Sunderland, (in this instance with particular emphasis to the children and parents of Hetton), with cost being way down the list.

Locally, Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is the only early years provision/ nursery that is currently graded as outstanding by OFSTED.

At the moment no other educational setting in Hetton-le-Hole can match the standard of education provision provided by Hetton-le-Hole Nursey School as judged by the external body, OFSTED.

Hetton-le-Hole Nursery has a dedicated and qualified SENDco who is an early years specialist and is able to support all children who have additional needs to support outstanding progress during their time at the school. This specialism will be diluted if children are forced to into a nursery unit attached to a primary school as opposed to a specialist Nursery School.

I would like to speak and expand my reasons at the school organisation committee meeting when it meets to make its decision.

Yours sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 10:52

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le hole Nursery planned closure

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Good morning, i am writing in relation to the planned closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery. I am very much against the closure of this outstanding nursery provision, so i felt that i needed to contact you to put across my views. In the best interests of the local community and the children currently at the nursery i would very much implore you to rethink this closure. This is the only outstanding nursery provision in Hetton, the community are very much against its closure - which you can see by the support that has given to keeping it open for the children.

I particularly think that it is not the time to be thinking about closing the nursery given the current pandemic situation and the upheaval and stress that this will have on children and parents.

Rethink this and keep Hetton nursery open for our children

Regards,

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 10:53

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Response to consultation - Hetton Nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Dear Council Leaders/Together For Children Leaders

I am writing to express my objection to the proposed closure of Hetton Nursery in the village of Hetton Le Hole. I understand the council proposes to build a new facility at the site of the existing Hetton Primary School, this would mean significant upheaval for the children who currently attend the nursery at the worst possible time given the pandemic we are very much still facing. Many of these children have special educational needs, are facing huge deprivation and social challenges already, the pandemic has only made life harder - as the council very well knows. This Ofsted rated Outstanding nursery is a safe place for these children, it's their constant, the implications of shifting them to a temporary facility (which I understand is the plan whilst the new facility is built) with unfamiliar staff who do not have the same level of knowledge of their needs is likely to have a significant impact on both their short and long term wellbeing.

The Head Teacher and her staff along with the local community have gone to great lengths to raise money to help clear the deficit incurred as a result of underfunding and the financial plan they have put together shows there is potential to clear address the funding issues, with the support of the council. I believe this demonstrates the clear bond the community feels to this nursery which has been part of the heritage of Hetton for over a century. I understand the council has a budget underspend in early years funding of almost 4 million pounds, it seems fair and sensible to allocate some of this funding to the babies and children of this nursery where there is a clear and urgent need rather than spending significantly more on a new facility which is not necessary. The council really needs to consider the demographic of this village and the real needs of the area here over and above the funding issue. I am also concerned that the new facility does not cater for babies, some of the babies in the current nursery will be on commissioned places due to additional needs, care plans, child protection concerns, are the council really proposing that these babies move to one of the private nurseries in the area at a greater expense to either TFC or the family? Won't this add additional pressure to already struggling families thus creating greater risk to those children and increasing the likelihood of further spending required by TFC in support of the family or indeed in relation to the care for that child outside of the family? Again I would urge leaders to consider the long term implications of this proposed closure, the nursery are providing a holistic service in this community and have been going above and beyond for families in need for decades.

In summary I wish to state my objection to the proposed closure and would like this noted in the consultation. I am a former resident of Hetton and a relative of a current pupil and staff member at the nursery.

Yours Sincerely

From: <>

Sent: 21 March 2021 11:03

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>;

ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Objection to the closure of Hetton Nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I wish to object to the closure of Hetton Nursery.

This nursery has been a huge part of Hetton for many years. I attended and both of my children did too. My daughter worked at the nursery whilst she studied childcare at College and University and we've seen how important it is to our community.

With the number of new builds in the area aimed at young families we need this nursery now more than we ever have. I don't believe it's fair or practical for those families to have to leave older children at school then travel further to take younger children to nursery. This is unnecessary when we have an outstanding nursery much closer.

It's been fantastic to see our community come together to fight this closure because everyone is so strongly against it.

I do hope you can listen to what the community want, as they are the ones affected.

King Regards

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 11:17

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton Nursery Closure

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To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to formally object to the closure of Hetton Nursery.

The Council has not provided any Covid 19 relief funds despite having received many millions of pounds from central government.

They will be employment at the Hetton Primary, but not for all staff so some expertise will be lost.

Nursery schools are required to provide high quality education but you are talking of closing an Ofsted rated outstanding school.

The nursery has been in Hetton since 1945 and you are now taking them to prefabs while a new building is constructed.

Where the proposed new nursery is in such a dangerous locality it's an accident waiting to happen. Traffic along that road is dangerous now and that is without the new houses that are proposed. New houses will bring more families, more cars more danger.

I do not object to the new nursery but this should be in addition to, not to closure of a perfectly great nursery.

Please do not go against the wishes of the community and leave the nursery open

Regards

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 11:44

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>;
ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton Nursery closure objection

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I am writing to object to the closure of Hetton Nursery school.

This Nursery has served our community for many years. My own children attended and it was beneficial in providing them with a great start to their education.

The Nursery is outstanding and a much needed service for all of the young families in the area, especially now with the number of new houses being built recently.

Regards

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 11:45

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Save Hetton Nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I would like to oppose the plans to close Hetton Nursery.

The community have rallied together over these last few weeks, and you can see exactly what it means to all of the young children and families.

I am the manager of a local care home who have direct links with the nursery and our elderly residents love the communication we hold with the children and the planned events once lockdown is lifted.

#handsoffournursery

Kind Regards

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 11:46

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>
Cc: Ruth Williamson (Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk)
<ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk>
Subject: Hetton Le Hole Nursery closure.

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Dear Sir, please find attached my objections to the closure of the above nursery school.

Dear sir,

I wish to strongly object to the closure of Hetton Le Hole nursery school.

My family carefully researched existing nursery provision to ensure that we got the very best provision for my granddaughter. This nursery proved, by its provision and outcomes, to be the best choice available to us. As a family we have been very pleased by the care and well rounded provision provided by the staff and headteacher. My granddaughter has made excellent progress there.

We were therefore devastated to hear that the nursery faces closure and that other children in our family would have to be placed elsewhere. I am well aware of the government guidelines which clearly state that nurseries should not be closed for purely financial reasons. This appears to be the main case put forward by the local authority.

IN 1997 the Labour party, of whom I am a member, promised to 'uphold family life' and 'tackle the division and inequality in our society' in part through a national childcare strategy. The north of England benefitted greatly from this push to create nurseries in deprived areas and to build bodies that supported the development of high quality Early Years education.

As a former educator I am saddened that Sunderland council no longer see the focussed support for high quality nurseries as a key priority and are willing to close such provision for financial reasons. This is all the more soul destroying when we hear that funding has been available over some years but has not been allocated to the nursery schools. The current school deficit is a mere drop in the ocean compared to the council underspend.

It has been stated that over 4 million pounds of funding for early years has not in fact been allocated. The headteacher of the nursery has reduced her staffing and made every effort to work within her budget. How is she to succeed when the council withholds funds for that sector? At the same time the council has allowed other competing provision to open and is currently claiming that Hetton school expand with new early years places. Their argument in that case being a rise in the number of places required.

I would add my voice to those of the other parents who see the value of maintaining this high quality provision. I would ask that the closure does not go ahead and that the council support this and other nurseries with appropriate funding so that our children continue to get the very best provision as demonstrated by Hetton Le Hole nursery school.

Yours faithfully,

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 11:46

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Nursery closure

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I strongly object to the closure due to the traffic is chaos at other schools now .

Also an outstanding nursery its madness it should close

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 11:56

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Nursery closure

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I strongly object about the closure of hetton nursery as it's an outstanding nursery and is needed for our community to thrive

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 13:28

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: HETTON nursery

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wish to strongly object to the closure of this fantastic nursery which had served our community very well over many years. we will loose our community hub and spirit without it, absolutely shocking

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 12:02

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject:

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I would like to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole nursery school. My 3 year old currently attends and is very comfortable with this setting. It is very close to us and easy to get to should we need to pick him up. This nursery has a qualified SENDco specialised in early years and can support my child the most and have found no other nursery can offer what they can to us as a family.

----- Original message -----

From:

Date: 21/03/2021 11:20 (GMT+00:00)

To: schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.comuk

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: HETTON NURSERY CLOSURE

Dear Sir

I strongly oppose the closure of the above nursery..the nursery has and still provides an excellent service to hetton le hole..the nursery has over the years been under funded by the council..as I live and next door neighbours for 40 years with the nursery I have seen my grandchildren and other family members provided with an outstanding grounding in early years education..i can also see with my own eyes the nursery has with funds coming from the council to maintain the property..

Where are the funds that central government provided during this pandemic worrying that tax payers will be paying this back but not seeing where our money has gone...

The nursery is outstanding I read ofsted reports from all schools in the area as a paid member of the labour party I need to know that the schools are operating to a good standard as good standards like the nursery breeds good educated children..

There are no gains closing the nursery I have seen the budgets and they dont add up shutting the nursery..indeed labours national stance is to invest and not close great schools like hetton nursery..

I am going to write to the education minister and the shadow education minister regarding the closure and the lack of investment the nursery has received ..

Hetto deserves better as a community we will fight and voice our concern regarding the closure.. all we as is good education safe education happy education ..hetton nursery provided that for many years and still does today..this ridiculous proposal needs to be reconsidered the children are the future of our community the nursery provides them with that future

Kind regards

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 12:19

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le Hole nursery school

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I would like to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole nursery school. My 3 year old currently attends and is very comfortable with this setting and the staff. This nursery has a qualified SENDco specialised in early years and can support my son to his needs. He struggles to adapt to change so moving him to a new location would set him back further. I also have a 2 year old in the process of joining but his start is all depending on the outcome. The nursery has been a great establishment throughout the pandemic and still continue to be even with the closure hanging above them. I strongly oppose to the closure.

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 12:31

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Objections Hetton Nursery School Closure

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To Whom it may Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the closure of Hetton Nursery School.

This nursery has been a huge part of the Hetton Le Hole community for many, many years.

I have two older boys who have both attended this OUTSTANDING nursery and they loved it so much they still ask to go back and visit. My dealings with the staff have always been fantastic and you can tell they truly love helping the children learn and grow.

My 3 Year old son is due to start here in April and it would be heartbreaking to have him settled and then have to find another nursery for him to go to, I believe i would truly struggle to find another close to home as good as this, especially as this is the only Outstanding nursery here!!

With all of the things that have happened this past year and all of the changes the children have had to overcome, it would be cruel to take away from them the nursery and staff they know and love. To expect them to have all the fun, learning experiences of nursery from a prefab whilst the other nursery is built is in my mind just awful. I for one would not allow my child to attend.

The Impact to children's mental health should be the main priority for Sunderland Council, not the value of money. There have been a number of new builds in the area lately and therefore even with the opening of a new nursery , there will be enough children to occupy both.

Please, Please reconsider your plan to close this piece of Hettons history, the place our children love. Save our Outstanding nursery and listen to the voices of the local residents.

Yours faithfully,

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 12:38

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk
Subject: Closing of our Nursery

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

I object strongly to the closing of this outstanding nursery.

My son attended there 40 years ago and it was amazing then. It has nurtured children from Hetton for even longer and I hope it would continue to give our children, grand children and great grandchildren the tremendous start in life they deserve.

Please help keep this jewel in Hetton's crown open for all future generations.

Regards

(Concerned grandparent)

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 12:38

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton le Hole Nursery - objection to closure

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

Mr Rowan

I enclose my objection to the proposal the close Hetton le Hole Nursery School.

Please acknowledge safe receipt.

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 12:42

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton Le Hole Nursery School

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

Dear Sirs/Madam,

With regards to the proposed closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery School, I would like to pass on my objections to Sunderland City Council, and sincerely hope that this decision can be reversed. Why close a perfectly good Nursery School which has an outstanding record, outstanding teachers and dedicated supporters, it makes no sense at all, surely there are enough children in the Hetton Le Hole

area to safeguard the longevity of this brilliant Nursery. I have lived in Hetton Le Hole for nearly 64 years and this Nursery is part of my history and hundreds of others, we all have happy memories associated with this wonderful and massive part of Hetton history, " Hetton Le Hole Nursery School" please see common sense and keep this Nursery Schhol open.

Yours sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 12:51

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth.Williamson@schools.Sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Objection

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I am submitting this objection to the closure of Hetton-le-hole Nursery School due to the following reasons:

The original debt was inherited by the present head of the nursery and should have been wiped before takeover, especially now we are aware of the underspend of government funding.

The nursery is the only Ofsted rated outstanding nursery in the district.

The proposed new Hetton Primary school will have no provision for 0-2 years so where will these children be provided for.

On a personal note my granddaughter attended Hetton Nursey school from the age of 5 months until transitioning to reception class in school. The brilliant educational start she received from the nursery staff led to her being identified as gifted and talented within her first term. This would not have been possible without the first class teaching and support provided by this fantastic learning environment.

I would urge you to listen to the many many parents and children who will be negatively affected by the closing of this nursery.

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 12:59

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject:

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole because:

1. Sunderland City Council has failed to comply with the Department of Education Guidance of November 2019 of giving the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools.
2. Sunderland City Council has permitted and encouraged unfair competition by allowing numerous private nurseries to undercut state schools.
3. Sunderland City Council has been derelict in its duties by not actively involving and discussing with the Nursery, its governors, residents, families and Hetton Town Council possible ways to overcome the difficulties of falling roll numbers.
4. Sunderland City Council has not provided any Covid-19 relief funds to the Nursery despite having received many millions from central government.
5. Sunderland City Council has failed to provide additional funding for this Nursery and other maintained nurseries to clear any outstanding deficits despite having an underspend of over £4 million.
6. The budget forecast produced by Sunderland City Council to 'justify' the closure is inaccurate and forecast additional pupils will eliminate the projected deficit.
7. Sunderland City Council deliberately distorted facts relating to the uplift given to the Nursery as the reason for at least one other nursery school going into deficit.
8. Sunderland City Council will be putting the Health and Safety of young and vulnerable children from the Nursery at risk by transferring them to temporary demountable classrooms /asbestos ridden reconfigured building for a period of up to 3 years.
9. Sunderland City Council's Cabinet took the decision to move forward to a statutory consultation 5 days before the pre consultation closed and this did not permit all responses to be considered.

Kind regards

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 13:03

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Hello

I am writing today as I am aware of the proposed closure of Hetton nursery. I did also make my concerns to Bridget phillipson our MP.

I feel I need to point out how much of a heart ache it would be to many parents having to move their little ones to prefabs which are so not suitable.. They are cold and not homely at all.

On the other side of this is the fact that the new proposed building will cause traffic may hem on the north road. Already accidents have happened recently and more will follow for sure as it is a congested road. Too many junctions and a main road used for many trying to avoid going through the local villages.

I feel that this nursery has not been given a chance to prove it can support itself like many others within the village and with many many new homes been built especially up near the nursery it would be totally unfair to have to ask parents to travel further which may result in the use of a car even, when they would have probably made it a walking journey and we could realistically do with less traffic on the roads and try and save the environment along the way.

I think they should be given much more of a chance to keep this village nursery going... If for some reason it can not keep up with the needs for the children then that's a descision to be made later by the people that know.

I personally used this nursery for all 3 of my children who loved attending. Do the right thing and keep the nursery to show your support within the village

Regards

Hetton resident

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 13:04

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection to closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Dear Sirs

I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole because:

1. Sunderland City Council has failed to comply with the Department of Education Guidance of November 2019 of giving the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools.

2. Sunderland City Council has permitted and encouraged unfair competition by allowing numerous private nurseries to undercut state schools.
3. Sunderland City Council has been derelict in its duties by not actively involving and discussing with the Nursery, its governors, residents, families and Hetton Town Council possible ways to overcome the difficulties of falling roll numbers.
4. Sunderland City Council has not provided any Covid-19 relief funds to the Nursery despite having received many millions from central government.
5. Sunderland City Council has failed to provide additional funding for this Nursery and other maintained nurseries to clear any outstanding deficits despite having an underspend of over £4 million.
6. The budget forecast produced by Sunderland City Council to 'justify' the closure is inaccurate and forecast additional pupils will eliminate the projected deficit.
7. Sunderland City Council deliberately distorted facts relating to the uplift given to the Nursery as the reason for at least one other nursery school going into deficit.
8. Sunderland City Council will be putting the Health and Safety of young and vulnerable children from the Nursery at risk by transferring them to temporary demountable classrooms /asbestos ridden reconfigured building for a period of up to 3 years.
9. Sunderland City Council's Cabinet took the decision to move forward to a statutory consultation 5 days before the pre consultation closed and this did not permit all responses to be considered.

-----Original Message-----

From: <>

Sent: 21 March 2021 13:19

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject:

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee,

I write to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School. It has been a huge part of Hetton and my family for many generation now. I went to this outstanding nursery and would be devastated to see it be no more.

To close the nursery when so many young children are so severely affected emotionally and socially by the pandemic we find ourselves in, is unbelievably irresponsible and neglectful of the council. The impact on the children should be the first priority of the council, not finances. The cost of moving children to new settings away from peers and staff, they have for the last year treated as their family when actual family have been kept at arms reach is deplorable. This could not only result in the

council still having the outstanding deficit and redundancy fees incurred, but also an increased number of children including family members children needing additional emotional support at an increased cost to new setting and thus the council. I urge you to reconsider this and put the children first in a time when they need stability most. The parents, school staff, Hetton Town Council and school governors are more than willing to set an agreed financial plan with the council to ensure the deficit does not increase in this next year and they can work on reducing the deficit. No members of the council have engaged in conversations around a financial plan with all stakeholders and those most directly impacted by this decision. It is unbelievable the councils inability to have these conversations and set a action plan, from what has been looked into there are still avenues and financial options available that could be explored and exhausted first before a council even considers closing a nursery. As far as any of us are concerned this has not been done!

Yours sincerely

-----Original Message-----

From: >

Sent: 21 March 2021 13:21

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject:

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee,

I write to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School. It has been a huge part of Hetton and my family for many generations now. I have family members who went to this outstanding nursery and would be devastated to see it be no more.

To close the nursery when so many young children are so severely affected emotionally and socially by the pandemic we find ourselves in, is unbelievably irresponsible and neglectful of the council. The impact on the children should be the first priority of the council, not finances. The cost of moving children to new settings away from peers and staff, they have for the last year treated as their family when actual family have been kept at arms reach is deplorable. This could not only result in the council still having the outstanding deficit and redundancy fees incurred, but also an increased number of children including family members children needing additional emotional support at an increased cost to new setting and thus the council. I urge you to reconsider this and put the children first in a time when they need stability most. The parents, school staff, Hetton Town Council and school governors are more than willing to set an agreed financial plan with the council to ensure the deficit does not increase in this next year and they can work on reducing the deficit. No members of the council have engaged in conversations around a financial plan with all stakeholders and those most directly impacted by this decision. It is unbelievable the councils inability to have these conversations and set a action plan, from what has been looked into there are still avenues and financial options available that could be explored and exhausted first before a council even considers closing a nursery. As far as any of us are concerned this has not been done!

Yours sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 13:22

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject:

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole for the following reasons. Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is the only early years provision/ nursery that is graded as outstanding by Ofsted. No other setting currently can match the standard of the provision provided. The nursery has a qualified SENDco who is an early years specialist and is able to support all children who have additional needs to make outstanding progress during their time at nursery. Other provisions are less accessible to us. Children and parents have suffered immensely as a result of the covid pandemic and do not need this type of upheaval. Key workers need support during this pandemic we do not need to worry about the council closing our nursery. The council is allocating in excess of £

5 million on a new build. In the consultation report it mentions further funds to be spent on ICT, furniture, and demolition, which is predicted to be in the region of £2-£12 million. The council will not clear the nursery deficit or provide adequate funding. Leaders and governors have worked extremely hard to balance the budget in difficult circumstances. Sunderland City Council has permitted and encouraged unfair competition by allowing numerous private nurseries to undercut state schools. Finally, Sunderland City Council has failed to provide additional funding for this Nursery and other maintained nurseries to clear any outstanding deficits despite having an underspend of over £4 million.

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 13:31

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton-le-hole Nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Dear Sir/Madam,

I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole for the following reasons.

Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is the only early years provision/ nursery that is graded as outstanding by Ofsted. No other setting currently can match the standard of the provision provided. The nursery has a qualified SENDco who is an early years specialist and is able to support all children who have additional needs to make outstanding progress during their time at nursery. Other provisions are less accessible to us.

Children and parents have suffered immensely as a result of the covid pandemic and do not need this type of upheaval. Key workers need support during this pandemic we do not need to worry about the council closing our nursery.

The council is allocating in excess of 5 million on a new build. In the consultation report it mentions further funds to be spent on ICT, furniture, and demolition, which is predicted to be in the region of £2-£12 million. The council will not clear the nursery deficit or provide adequate funding. Leaders and governors have worked extremely hard to balance the budget in difficult circumstances. Sunderland City Council has permitted and encouraged unfair competition by allowing numerous private nurseries to undercut state schools.

Finally, Sunderland City Council has failed to provide additional funding for this Nursery and other maintained nurseries to clear any outstanding deficits despite having an underspend of over £4 million.

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 13:33

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Proposed closure of Outstanding Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Dear Sunderland city council,

I strongly oppose the proposal of Sunderland City Council to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole for a number reasons.

Children and parents have suffered immensely as a result of the covid pandemic and do not need this type of upheaval. Key workers need support during this pandemic we do not need to worry about the council closing our nursery.

Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is the only early years provision/ nursery that is graded as outstanding by Ofsted and there is no other setting currently that can match the standard of the provision provided.

The council will not clear the nursery deficit or provide adequate funding despite having an underspend of over £4 million. Leaders and governors have worked extremely hard to balance the budget in difficult circumstances.

Sunderland City Council has permitted and encouraged unfair competition by allowing numerous private nurseries to undercut state schools and one to open in very close proximity to Hetton Le Hole Nursery.

Yours sincerely

Sunday 21st March 2021

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 13:35

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@school.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Proposal closure of Hetton Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

As a resident of Hetton for over 30 years, a parent and grandparent I would like to strongly object to the proposed closure of Hetton Nursery School.

My main objectives being :

I have seen this nursery transform from an average nursery to an outstanding nursery which is no mean feat and a tribute to the management and staff of the nursery. More importantly the outstanding rating is based on a gruelling external inspection process and is not just the views of staff, children, parents and carers. An outstanding rating is not awarded lightly and we should be celebrating and building upon this fantastic achievement and learning from Hetton Nursery not dismantling and destroying it. Every education facility aspires to be rated outstanding.

The proposed move to another part of Hetton will cause severe traffic issues in an already congested area. Currently Hetton Nursery is served by a large car park a couple of minutes walk away.

Hetton Lyons Nursery is located a five minute walk away from the proposed new nursery site. Surely we don't need two nursery schools in such close proximity.

Hetton Nursery is very much a part of the central Hetton community and will leave a massive hole in community life should it be taken away.

Our young people need to be given the best possible start in life and we owe it to them to continue to provide outstanding nursery provision like Hetton Nursery please don't try and fix and something that isn't broken.

From < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 13:35

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I object to Sunderland City Council proposal to close the Outstanding Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton le Hole:

1. Sunderland City Council has failed to comply with the Department of Education Guidance of November 2019 of giving the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools.
2. Sunderland City Council has permitted and encouraged unfair competition by allowing numerous private nurseries to undercut state schools.
3. Sunderland City Council has been derelict in its duties by not actively involving and discussing with the Nursery, its governors, residents, families and Hetton Town Council possible ways to overcome the difficulties of falling roll numbers.
4. Sunderland City Council has not provided any Covid-19 relief funds to the Nursery despite having received many millions from central government.
5. Sunderland City Council has failed to provide additional funding for this Nursery and other maintained nurseries to clear any outstanding deficits despite having an underspend of over £4 million.
6. The budget forecast produced by Sunderland City Council to 'justify' the closure is inaccurate and forecast additional pupils will eliminate the projected deficit.
7. Sunderland City Council deliberately distorted facts relating to the uplift given to the Nursery as the reason for at least one other nursery school going into deficit.
8. Sunderland City Council will be putting the Health and Safety of young and vulnerable children from the Nursery at risk by transferring them to temporary demountable classrooms /asbestos ridden reconfigured building for a period of up to 3 years.
9. Sunderland City Council's Cabinet took the decision to move forward to a statutory consultation 5 days before the pre consultation closed and this did not permit all responses to be considered.

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 13:53

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Closure of Nursery Hetton le Hole

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole for the following reasons:

Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is the only early years provision/ nursery that is graded as outstanding by Ofsted. No other setting currently can match the standard of the provision provided. Our nursery has a qualified SENDco who is an early years specialist and is able to support all children who have additional needs to make outstanding progress during their time at nursery. Other provisions are less accessible to us.

Children and parents have suffered immensely as a result of the covid pandemic and do not need this type of upheaval. Key workers need support during this pandemic we do not need to worry about the council closing our nursery.

The council is allocating in excess of 5 million on a new build. In the consultation report it mentions further funds to be spent on ICT, furniture, and demolition, which is predicted to be in the region of £2-£12 million. The council will not clear the nursery deficit or provide adequate funding. Leaders and governors have worked extremely hard to balance the budget in difficult circumstances. Sunderland City Council has permitted and encouraged unfair competition by allowing numerous private nurseries to undercut state schools.

Finally, Sunderland City Council has failed to provide additional funding for this Nursery and other maintained nurseries to clear any outstanding deficits despite having an underspend of over £4 million.

Regards,

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 13:58

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton Nursery

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

For The Attention of the members of the school organisation committee

I write to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School. It has been a huge part of Hetton and my family for many generation now. I went to this outstanding nursery and would be devastated to see it be no more.

To close the nursery when so many young children are so severely affected emotionally and socially by the pandemic we find ourselves in, is unbelievably irresponsible and neglectful of the council. The impact on the children should be the first priority of the council, not finances. The cost of moving children to new settings away from peers and staff, they have for the last year treated as their family when actual family have been kept at arms reach is deplorable. This could not only result in the council still having the outstanding deficit and redundancy fees incurred, but also an increased number of children needing additional emotional support at an increased cost to new setting and thus the council. I urge you to reconsider this and put the children first in a time when they need stability most. The parents, school staff, Hetton Town Council and school governors are more than willing to set an agreed financial plan with the council to ensure the deficit does not increase in this next year and they can work on reducing the deficit. No members of the council have engaged in conversations around a financial plan with all stakeholders and those most directly impacted by this decision. It is unbelievable the councils inability to have these conversations and set a action plan, from what has been looked into there are still avenues and financial options available that could be explored and exhausted first before a council even considers closing a nursery. As far as any of us are concerned this has not been done!

Yours sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 14:16

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth Williamson <Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Statutory Notice and Full Proposals for the Discontinuance of Hetton le Hole Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Sorry last email did not include my addresses etc. Now added to the bottom.

Please see attached document for my objection to the closure of the nursery. All necessary documents have been hyperlinked.

I strongly object to the closure of Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School. This nursery has been in the community for 76 years; it has seen 14 prime ministers, the devastating miner's strike and is older than the NHS. To add to that, it was the first maintained nursery school to open in Sunderland. To me, history and heritage is something that is celebrated as seen in the local area with pit wheels and miners' statues, not something that is closed to make way for new builds. However, like all other settings, it is struggling at the moment to survive in a time of austerity created by a Conservative government and a pandemic. Seven and a half decades of children have gone to this establishment, including myself, my brother and my son (who is there at present), and left with an amazing foundation to build upon in primary school - as shown by the results that I will touch on later. Despite ever growing funding changes, numbers decreasing in the city and a deadly virus, this nursery still manages to achieve outstanding progress, which in my eyes makes it a sustainable setting.

Another reason I object to your proposed closure is the opening statement regarding its Ofsted rating. You state that its last full inspection was March 2015 despite a more recent inspection being carried out in May 2019. Albeit it was not a full inspection (but a short inspection), it did state that not only had they maintained the good quality of education, but also showed marked improvement and was therefore being put forward for a section 5 to move them to an Outstanding provision. [Click here for the full Ofsted report](#). Due to COVID this did not happen before you wrote your proposal, but the fact still remains that the Ofsted inspector on the day believed they deserved an Outstanding to put them forward for a section 5. In my eyes, and anyone reading the Ofsted report's eyes, this makes the nursery's provision 'Outstanding' - just without a section 5 yet to support the inspector's views.

This school continues to be good.

The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection. Based on the evidence gathered during this short inspection, I am of the opinion that the school has demonstrated strong practice and marked improvement in specific areas. This may indicate that the school has improved significantly overall. Therefore, I am recommending that the school's next inspection be a section 5 inspection.

This is extremely relevant as it means that the only nursery in the area that matches its potential Outstanding rating (as witnessed during its short inspection) is Houghton, which is not more accessible for parents in the Hetton-Le-Hole area. I cannot argue that there are other provisions in Hetton that have been awarded a 'Good', making them on paper the same as Hetton Le Hole Nursery School, but if they all were visited by Ofsted tomorrow for a Section 5, how many would achieve Outstanding? You may argue that right now they are not, but if we all took that view on other consultations that have closed recently, nothing would happen. For example how do we know Hetton Primary's nursery will get the numbers? How do we know how many children will be born in the coming years? How many children will the new builds bring? Everything is surely based on the hypothetical and what if, not what we know for sure, therefore the same way of viewing other consultations should be the same way of viewing this one. Had COVID not happened and the section 5 gone ahead, this nursery would now be Outstanding.

A further reason I object is based on your finances and what you are stating as being financially vulnerable. The current head teacher (when she arrived at the nursery) along with governors, managed the impossible of reducing a projected deficit of £179,950 to £46,000 in 2014/15. They saved an incredible £133,000 which they have been praised for. In my opinion, since that point and following that achievement, I wouldn't include the £46,000 they had in 2014/15, as that was not accrued by the current team and after their efforts should not be. The nursery have also lost £76,905 due to COVID which again, in my view, should not be considered towards the financial vulnerability or even stability of the nursery. I say that because I deem it to be morally wrong to do so. This nursery as well as all other education settings, should not be penalised for the impact of a deadly virus or for that matter, the closure back in March 2020 as that was a government decision. Unfortunately, the government did not contribute any money to nurseries to cover the loss of each child's monthly payment due to lockdown 1, so in that respect nurseries have suffered more than any business out there. Since 2014/15 (starting at £46,000 - as 0) the nursery has accrued £152,986. If the COVID impact is also deducted for reasons stated, then they have actually accrued £76,081 which if split over the last 6 years that Ruth Williamson has been head teacher is £12,680 average a year. Even if the council wished to argue that the £46,000 starting point in 2014/15 is still part of the

deficit, then the nursery has accrued £122,081 (without the £76,905 of COVID losses) averaging £20,347 a year over the last 6 years. This is not the £24,000 in year deficit average that Alan Rowan quoted to Hetton Town Council in a meeting on the 21st December. Personally, this average yearly deficit is not making the setting financially vulnerable when in reality there are a large number of factors surrounding the nursery's ability to balance. Some of these factors are: a new grading structure introduced by the council for staff, utility rates inflated, SLA chargers increased, a new funding formula for early years, loss of SEND bursaries, £3,000 taken unexpectedly by LA due to an error on their behalf from 2 years prior, school rates now being charged at around £4,000, schools now being charged for school meals and finally, the opening of a private nursery 0.5 miles away, meaning the nursery lost £12,000 from commissioned places. This list is only naming a few hurdles that the nursery has faced financially before COVID, and if this is what all nurseries in the city face, then it seems to me that they are not maintained by the council at all, but left to survive alone.

This objection is only further strengthened by the government funding that the council have had to ensure that early years is provided for adequately, and further funding for establishments for SEND, to support the city's most vulnerable students. From a Freedom of Information Request, it was found that Sunderland, not including this year, has ended the year (2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20) with a surplus which when totalled results in a £4,000,000 surplus for early years and SEN, which has then been carried over each year into the overall DSG balance. Why is the council considering the closure of an outstanding maintained nursery when it is sat with millions of surplus funding? Why can this money not be used to ensure all 8 maintained nurseries in Sunderland have no deficits and are all maintained with the help of the local council? Why pool it into the DSG pot if it is needed? Is that not what the government gave the council the funding for, to ensure the children in Sunderland are provided for? By having a surplus, I will make the assumption that no education settings need it in the area, but when some are facing closure, I would say that in fact they do. You state in the consultation itself on page 1 that, "additional financial support mechanisms made available to the Council from central government to support the costs associated with maintained nursery schools have been fully utilised". With a significant surplus each year, I would say that it has not been utilised.

I am more than aware that funding is complicated in all local authorities and is based on the amount of children who attend the setting that use the 15 hours allocated by the government. As the numbers have declined at the nursery, that will have an impact on the funding. However, the decline in numbers started after the local authority failed to put in any protective measures on the planning applications or purchasing of the building in the middle of Hetton - only 0.5 miles away from the nursery. This resulted in a private nursery opening at that location from 2016, which flooded the market and impacted on other settings in the Hetton ward. This can be seen when Hetton Le Hole Nursery had 86 nursery places filled in 2016/17 autumn census, but by the following year this had dropped to 52. Had the council protected their own maintained nursery, then the high numbers would have been sustained. Numbers are also in decline across the city due to lower birth rates which are impossible to predict when they spike one year and decline the next. Plus, with COVID causing parents to lose their jobs and being unable to pay for childcare, places are being lost due to the pandemic as well as the positioning of the nursery. One reason I significantly struggle to understand the reasoning behind the fall in numbers at the setting as a reason for closure, is because you are opening another as part of Hetton Primary that offers the same number of places. If there are not enough numbers in the Hetton ward, why open another? It seems incredibly contradictory and simply used to suit the council's future plans for Hetton. Surely Hetton Primary, based on your argument for our nursery, will also run at a deficit due to a lack of children and have an impact on other settings such as the other maintained nursery 0.5 miles away (Hetton Lyons).

I also appreciate the census breakdown for our nursery that shows the declining numbers and how it has lost 58% compared to other settings losing 4%. However what you are failing to notify the public is the reason for their bigger percentage. For one, in 2016 Autumn census, Hetton Le Hole Nursery had 18 more children than Hetton Lyons Nursery (the other maintained setting in the Hetton ward), showing that at that time, it was a more popular provision. Second, your 58% decrease in those on roll includes COVD data from 2020, which is ridiculously unfair as all pupils had not yet returned and parents had suffered a lengthy lockdown from March of that year, and subsequently lost their jobs. This will have made it highly unlikely that they could pay childcare or need a place if they were at home. The nursery has gone on to gain numbers since, as parents have returned to work or acquired new jobs resulting in them needing nursery places. If you reported this data fairly (up to the lockdown) of the drop from 2016-2019, then they had a 48% decrease in the numbers on roll. This loss is clearly linked to the opening of the private nursery 0.5 miles away that opened in 2016 - the same time, the numbers began to fall. Due to the location of that establishment compared to Hetton Le Hole, it means that more people are likely attending due to seeing it in the centre of Hetton while our nursery is set back in a safe estate. Promotion can very easily solve this and with houses being built, children will begin to attend if it remains open. A plan for this has been put together by residents and parents which will be discussed later. Finally, this setting has seen numbers decline more severely than other settings due to the impact of the private provision, while others have maintained their numbers. At present, no other nursery is 0.5 miles away from Hetton Lyons, Eppleton, Easington Lane or Houghton so they have not seen the impact this can have, however I am sure Hetton Lyons will in the next few years, now that Hetton Primary's nursery has been given the green light. Sadly, I can see this problem being reflected at their establishment in the coming years and history repeating itself.

As for new builds, the council have repeatedly used this as a reasoning for an extension and nursery at Hetton Primary school so on that basis, it should be being considered in our consultation. At present, there is a housing development in Hetton Downs (Blossom Park) being developed as part of your housing and neighbourhood renewal scheme, which is 0.4 miles away from the nursery on foot. If our nursery remains open, it will reduce the carbon footprint of any residents living there with toddlers who are in walking distance. According to a Pupil Place Planning Statement Coalfields Document, a table outlines the amount of houses being built and the amount of children that are calculated to come from the housing developments in the area. Hetton Downs Phase 2 will create 122 houses resulting in a possible 28 1-5 year olds needing a nursery placement - see document (table on page 10) [See Pupil Place Planning Statement Coalfields Doc on this webpage](#). With the correct promotion, 28 extra children will need this nursery to remain open and certainly in walking distance to ensure the carbon footprint is low. An extra 28 pupils aged 2, 3 or 4 who require 15 hours, means that the nursery will contribute more to the lump sum across the city. If they don't require it yet because they are aged 0-2, then at least they will be bringing money into the nursery towards their budget until they reach the age of 3-4.

Taking the discussion back to finances, the nursery closure is also based on its impact on other settings when contributing to and receiving the annual lump sum. In the year 2019/20, the nursery generated £33,573. As the new provision is simply a nursery class attached to a primary school, surely it does not get the same funding and therefore won't contribute or require any lump sum. However, it seems quite misleading as nurseries don't need to contribute to this when the government give the local authority ample funding to cover all 8 nursery settings, with this year 2021-22 being £656,298 - which shared by 8 settings results in £82,037 each. [This is the supplementary funding allocation for maintained nursery schools](#). Therefore each nursery does not need to generate anything to pool together. In theory, they shouldn't be impacting on other settings

when the money is there. With that in mind, surely the council would then lose the £33,573 that this nursery generated in 2019/20 each year if they close. Plus in the funding year of 2018/19 4 maintained nurseries in Sunderland ended with an in year deficit, and the year after 5. Hetton Le Hole Nursery is not alone in this and therefore is not the only one impacting on other settings.

In addition to my other points, part of this decision must be compliant with the guidance given in the [Opening and Closing Maintained Schools document from November 2019](#) that states that: "Where a proposal is for the closure of a maintained nursery school, the proposer should set out plans to develop alternative early years provision clearly demonstrating that it will be at least equal in quantity and quality to the provision provided by the nursery school with no loss of expertise and specialism; and replacement provision is more accessible and more convenient for local parents." This is as a last resort as "decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools." When looking at the first part of the guidance, it is clear that the inclusion of a nursery as part of a new build at the Hetton Primary site is not equal in quality. Right now, Hetton Le Hole Nursery's building is established and safe, providing Outstanding provision, while the new build is not ready for the proposed closure of our own in September 2021. Instead, children will be moved into the primary building after reconstruction work takes place - reconstruction that will cost an incredible amount of money when handling an asbestos ridden building. Why not at least keep our setting open until the other is ready? Not only that, they cannot guarantee to deliver the same high quality education and progress. At the moment, Hetton Le Hole Nursery has an incredibly high percentage of children leaving where they should be for their age - creating an amazing foundation for them starting a primary setting. In 2018-19 89% were exiting where they should be, with the previous year being 83% and prior to that 80%. This supports what the Ofsted inspector saw at their short inspection in 2019, that the nursery has continued to improve.

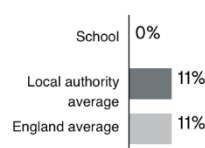
Exit from Nursery		Exiting at age related expectations
	2019-20	90% (on track to exit)
	2018-19	89%
	2017-18	83%
	2016-17	80%

The only data that can be used to judge the like for like quality has to be Hetton Primary's data, that unfortunately shows that when the children move through that school and leave in year 6, only 44% make expected progress. Therefore, by being a part of the same primary, 56% starting in the new nursery will not meet expected progress by the time they leave in Year 6 based on that current data published by the government. See data below and [click on this link for the Government page where it is published.](#)

Pupils meeting expected standard in reading, writing and maths ?

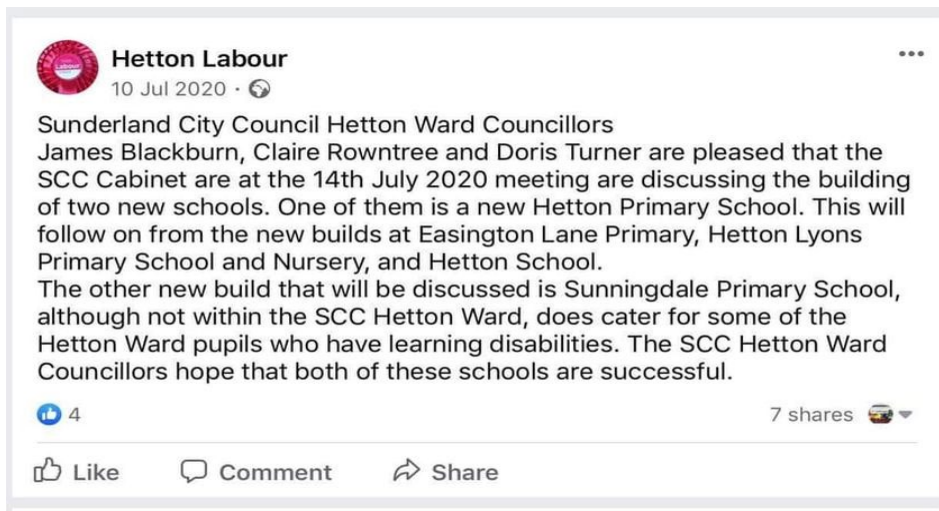


Pupils achieving at a higher standard in reading, writing and maths ?



Now, as much as we have been informed in several meetings and emails that this does not have to be the setting they go to, this is the one in your own consultation that is being described as the "alternative provision" you are providing in depth on page 5 and in the section for displaced pupils. As for other settings in the area (as displayed in your table on page 6), they all appear like for like with a 'Good' Ofsted rating but as discussed above, Hetton Primary is 'Good' yet has extremely poor results. The only two like for like on the list given is Houghton and Hetton Lyons as they are both maintained nurseries that come with their own level of expertise as stated in the Maintained Nursery Schools: the state of play report from March 2015. The primary settings and private given as alternatives: Hetton, Easington Lane, Eppleton and Hetton House are not given parents the like for like of a maintained nursery. Plus, as Houghton is further away from the current setting by 1.8 miles, it is not more accessible for parents, leaving only one alternative that is like for like being Hetton Lyons. There is surely no way that they can take in all displaced pupils and if they can, as discussed earlier, they will only be next to be earmarked for closure when Hetton Primary opens 0.5 miles away from it, and impacts on that setting the way the private nursery did at Hetton Le Hole. While I appreciate the variety of provision you are suggesting, every parent (including myself) that sends their child to our current nursery, does so because it is maintained; does so because it comes with significant expertise needed; does so for the safe setting in a private estate where no traffic impacts pick up and drop offs. Therefore, most of your suggestions do not cater for a like for like provision.

As for the other part of the guidance on the closure of a maintained nursery setting, it states that there should be with no loss of expertise or specialism. [In the Maintained Nursery Schools: the state of play report \(2015\)](#) it states that they: "provide high quality early education, led by specialist head teachers, and delivered by qualified teachers and nursery nurses" and "Nursery school head teachers are a unique cadre of specialist early years leaders who are highly qualified and knowledgeable about early years pedagogy. They have particular expertise in improving outcomes for disadvantaged children and supporting children with SEND." It is clear that Hetton Primary (offered up as the main alternative provision as seen from page 5 of your consultation) will not guarantee this expertise. For one, they will not require a head teacher with this level of expertise as it is in a primary setting, plus the staff will not need to be qualified with a level 3. This is further supported by a post that was on Hetton Labour's page from July 2020 (see below) which stated that although Sunningdale Primary School is not within the Hetton ward, it will cater for some of the Hetton ward pupils who have learning disabilities. Why would it have to cater for them when it is 6.4 miles away by car and 2 hours and 13 minutes away on foot? By posting this, it suggests to me that Hetton Primary cannot cater for the potential learning disabilities that may come their way after closing a maintained nursery, so Sunningdale is being offered up for support which is miles away. It certainly shows that the Hetton Ward is not capable of catering for these needs. Plus the staff at Hetton Le Hole are being offered the first jobs up there (which are not guaranteed) and are not actually being relocated as it stated in the proposal about redundancies, so the specialism cannot be guaranteed, especially running with a lost leader. Maintained nurseries are known for the staff costing more money because they are specialists in SEND that liaise with speech therapists etc, while that is not the case in a classroom setting in a primary school where SEND is catered for differently. An example of this, is that at the current nursery, they teach the children Makaton and it is used with a number of students who require it to communicate, does any other setting have staff trained in this?



As for being more accessible, it is on an extremely busy road that currently takes 15 minutes to pass on a morning (confirmed by a resident) without an extension and nursery being added. Only last week, there was a collision on that road. The current nursery is in a safe estate, set back from main roads where there is no traffic affecting drop off and pickups. The proposed new setting will not only be on a busy road but will also be less accessible when construction begins and heavy vehicles are accessing the site, plus new houses being proposed 2.5 miles away in Cragdale Gardens causing even more traffic. From the perspective of someone who is from Hetton, I can tell you that despite your thorough planning of a one way system to elevate traffic, that many people will continue to park on the road outside for a quick getaway for work. They will not want to be stuck in a one way system. This happens already in the small cul-de-sac opposite the site and will be made worse when more children attend. Plus it will not be a simple drop off as nursery children need to be lead to the building, messages passed to and from the staff to parents at drop off and pick up which will only cause traffic to build inside the school's premises itself. As for alternative settings, they are all situated on main roads except for Eppleton which is set back and Houghton which is far too far away for parents to travel. By offering up Eppleton and Houghton as an alternative, it is in complete contradiction to the pre- consultation, which stated that parents live closer to another provision to make it more convenient for us - yet these two options are further away. Finally, you have made an assumption based on postcodes that we live closer to other options, when in reality (until COVID), grandparents do drop offs and collections from the nursery. My own parents live 430ft away from Hetton Le Hole Nursery in The Avenue. That means there is zero carbon footprint as they pick him up and drop him off while I work. If I attend any other provision that is not Hetton House (which I do not wish to go private), then that zero carbon footprint stops and my parents then have to drive to the new location as the others are too far to expect a child aged 2-4 to walk.

Finally, you end the consultation by looking at the results of the informal consultation in which you say 92% disagreed with the council's proposal from 541 responses. It states on Sunderland City Council's own website that: "the people of Sunderland can exchange views to help influence decisions, inform the way services are delivered and improve their communities." It also says that "The views of local people in Sunderland really do matter and they do influence decisions that affect everything from how we provide services to the future of the whole city." If responses are taken seriously and can influence decisions and improve communities, then how is 92% against the closure of the nursery not enough? What is needed? 100%. I find this very contradictory and actually feel our voices have not been heard or listened to and because of that that my view really doesn't matter. I think the strength of feeling is abundantly clear, alongside the petition to keep the nursery open that to date has received 1,679 signatures (the last one being 1 day ago) [Link to petition](#). You

go on to state that the pre-consultation offered "no alternative option has been identified that would increase the viability". I don't think parents, residents, staff or Hetton Town Council should provide you (the local authority) with an option, surely that is what you are meant to do to maintain your nursery. Not only are you sitting on funding that has not been used for early years and SEND, you have also never discussed any alternative options yourself with the nursery prior to consultation. If you have been watching this setting since 2016 (which is clear from the dates in the consultation and from the HTC meeting in December with Alan Rowan), then why has the council not stepped in to help save the nursery? Instead, you have sat back and watched it become in your words "unsustainable", meaning you have failed your own maintained nursery and the children that attend.

On a final note before I offer up some ideas to improve the financial viability of the setting, I would like to address the lack of consideration from the council for its own residents during a pandemic. Frankly, you have made what has been an impossible time for all, but certainly key workers which I am, horrific due to your disgraceful timing. You have taken advantage of the pandemic to propose the closure of the nursery, meaning representations have not been able to be made in the way they usually would be. Parents have never been sat down by the local council and been told of this, instead the nursery had to send us an email. Instead, you offer up a Q and A months into the process in an attempt to address how parents felt, which is unacceptable. In my view, you have also been unable to gather everyone's views on the matter as well, as the elderly are isolated with no internet to even know this is going on, the same people that may be grandparents, great grandparents or former pupils of the nursery from when it first opened. Due to restrictions, people have not been able to go door to door or deliver leaflets to make them aware of this proposed closure. Other educational settings in the area and Hetton Town Council were not even aware until the consultations were out in the public domain, and may have remained in the dark had parents not spoken out in desperation about this. It states in the Opening and Closing Maintained Schools document that "the decision-maker must consider the expressed views of all those affected by a proposal or who have an interest in it, including cross-LA border interests. The decision-maker should not simply take account of the number of people expressing a particular view. Instead, they should give the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school(s)". It is clear from the lack of people who even knew about this and how the pre-consultation of 92% against the closure was ignored, that you are not following the guidance and in fact are taking advantage during the pandemic.

Now in terms of the pandemic, children of all ages were forced out of their settings during lockdown 1 for a considerable length of time, unable to see grandparents, family, staff or friends. All stability for them was removed and they were forced to stay home with no visits to zoos, soft plays, aquariums, farms etc. They then return to nursery to a world where bubbles cannot cross, adults are wearing masks and they are being taught about washing their hands and not being in each other's personal space - whilst still not seeing family members. They return to seeing their family for an extremely small window over the Christmas period before entering another lock down where they cannot see them again. Nursery in the last lockdown was their only stability, their new norm. You now want to pull the rug from under them once again at the end of August to cause more upheaval when they move to another setting. A place unfamiliar, staff are not the same, friends have not followed and without the certainty of seeing family still for comfort. This is what they face because of your timing. How is this fair? How is this considering what is best for these children? It has been reported in the news only this week that Europe could see a third wave so we cannot guarantee this country will not suffer another lock down. A pandemic is not the time to move children and close a site. Parents have also faced the same horror of the timing as from November (when we were

notified of this), we have suffered unimaginable unease, stress and sleepless nights, worrying for our children with no comfort from family available due to lockdown restrictions.

Despite all of this, you seem to want the local people to come up with an alternative option to make the setting viable. The residents and parents have collaborated with the nursery and Hetton Town Council to look at ways to help. These include:

- Increasing the hourly rate at the nursery in line with other nurseries in the area from £4.50 to £5.00. This will generate an extra £17,436 which will more than pay for next year's in year deficit of £11,493 proposed by the council. Any extra can go towards paying off some of the deficit.
- Promotion of the nursery by nursery, parents and HTC through signposting, social media, leaflet drops and events, such as the Going On a Nursery Hunt that was a great success on the 20th March. It meant that people went on a trail that ended at the nursery so more people knew it was there - following COVID guidelines.



- Fundraising organised by parents to lower the current deficit. At the moment, it is on £3,413 and was set up on the 19th Feb ([click link for fundraising page](#)). In my view this is amazing considering we are in lockdown and will only increase when we are able to fundraise properly.
- Projection of those pupils aged 3-4 to be re-considered as a number of parents are moving children into 3-4 main nursery and upping the hours, so it will take them over the 15 funded hours needed to contribute towards the lump sum allocation. Plus with promotion, particularly with new builds, the nursery should gain more numbers. This can work as the head teacher is still getting people enquiring about places despite the proposed closure and more now than ever, because it has been in the media and online through residents raising awareness over its closure.

While I appreciate no-one wants to close a nursery, this particular decision seems to be ill thought out and ill timed. I hope we as parents, the residents of Hetton, the town council and staff are given time to make the setting more viable, before this decision is made. As the Maintained nursery schools: state of play report states: "England's maintained nursery schools are a remarkable part of our education system where the most disadvantaged children can access the highest quality

education. Rather than letting them wither on the vine through short-sighted attempts at cutting costs, we should be using them as a means of bringing up quality across the early years sector". Don't let this nursery wither; give us time alongside your support to ensure its viability.

Thanks

21/03/2021

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 14:21

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery School

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Good Afternoon

I am emailing to express my disappointment and sadness at the proposed closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery School.

As somebody who has previously been a resident of Hetton for over 25 years, living just around the corner from the nursery and having also attended the nursery as a child along with my sister, I cannot express its importance to the local community.

My nephew is also currently attending the nursery and it amazes me at how quickly he has developed at such a young age, which I believe the nursery and their staff have hugely contributed to. From my own personal experience of attending the nursery, the early development and education I received was second to none and this is clearly still shown with the nursery receiving an outstanding Ofsted rating over 20 years since I attended.

The nursery is also situated in a great location with a near by public carpark, easy access and away from busy roads and traffic. It has always been pleasing to see the children playing out in the garden area in the Summer and visibly being able to see how much the staff clearly love working there and educating the children.

I would also like to mention that after an incredibly tough 12 months for everybody especially young vulnerable children in the most important educational years of their lives, hearing my nephew upset saying that people are trying to close his nursery is heart-breaking and is something no parent or relative should have to hear.

The reality is, that if anything this year has shown us is that caring for each other and making sure each and every bodies mental wellbeing, education and safety is of the most importance and that this is clearly much more important than money and finance and the closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery would not only be disgusting, but would be a failure to

the community and would go against everything the current government, ministers and officials state is the most important step on the road to recovery, education!

Regards

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 14:23

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery

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It is deeply saddening and disappointing to see that the council want to close and Ofsted Outstanding nursery that has been at the heart of the community for 75 years. The outcry and support from families past and present demonstrates the importance and care people have for the nursery.

Not only does this nursery hold a special place in the community it also has excellent results and progress with its pupils. Students here are happy, well cared for and nurtured; this is reflected in the 2018 - 2019 exit figures which shows 89% of the cohort transitioned to primary school in line with their age-related expectations.

Having a nephew who has attended the nursery for 3 years now it is clear how much the nursery has helped his overall progression and happiness. I always ask him what he has been doing at nursery and he speak fondly about the staff and his time there. The last time I asked him about nursery he responded that he was said as people wanted to close his nursery and he might have to go somewhere else; this is coming from a 3 year old. Are the council actually reflecting on the real needs of the children here? They are the most important part of all of this and currently they are happy and thriving at their nursery; these early stepping stones in their education and development are the most important and if we have learnt anything from the pandemic education is the key to the future of our country and no expense should be spared there.

What I find most disgusting is that the council have a £4 million understand on early years education and yet they want to close the nursery because of funding. The money is there and the council should be doing more to support the nursery; I would like to point out that the council are also being very underhand in using figures that show an increased deficit when no funding has been provided to support with PPE during the pandemic. As I teacher myself, I know there will not be any educational provision that is managing to balance their books in this current climate due to the unprecedented circumstance they have found themselves in and want to keep their staff and pupils safe; something the council has shown no consideration or support in by not providing extra funding.

It is also deeply concerning that the council want to close this provision before the new proposed site is even completed. Why is so much upset and turmoil being caused to students that are at a delicate age when plans are not finalised for any future plans.

I hope the council seriously read every one of the objections and reflect on what residents actually want; after all being in a position of this type of authority is to represent the views and needs of the community and we could not be making this any clearer.

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 14:24

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>
Subject: Fao Alan Rowan

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I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole because:

1. Sunderland City Council has failed to comply with the Department of Education Guidance of November 2019 of giving the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools.
2. Sunderland City Council has permitted and encouraged unfair competition by allowing numerous private nurseries to undercut state schools.
3. Sunderland City Council has been derelict in its duties by not actively involving and discussing with the Nursery, its governors, residents, families and Hetton Town Council possible ways to overcome the difficulties of falling roll numbers.
4. Sunderland City Council has not provided any Covid-19 relief funds to the Nursery despite having received many millions from central government.
5. Sunderland City Council has failed to provide additional funding for this Nursery and other maintained nurseries to clear any outstanding deficits despite having an underspend of over £4 million.
6. The budget forecast produced by Sunderland City Council to 'justify' the closure is inaccurate and forecast additional pupils will eliminate the projected deficit.
7. Sunderland City Council deliberately distorted facts relating to the uplift given to the Nursery as the reason for at least one other nursery school going into deficit.
8. Sunderland City Council will be putting the Health and Safety of young and vulnerable children from the Nursery at risk by transferring them to temporary demountable classrooms /asbestos ridden reconfigured building for a period of up to 3 years.
9. Sunderland City Council's Cabinet took the decision to move forward to a statutory consultation 5 days before the pre consultation closed and this did not permit all responses to be considered.

Regards

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 14:32

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole because:

1. Sunderland City Council has failed to comply with the Department of Education Guidance of November 2019 of giving the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools.
2. Sunderland City Council has permitted and encouraged unfair competition by allowing numerous private nurseries to undercut state schools.
3. Sunderland City Council has been derelict in its duties by not actively involving and discussing with the Nursery, its governors, residents, families and Hetton Town Council possible ways to overcome the difficulties of falling roll numbers.
4. Sunderland City Council has not provided any Covid-19 relief funds to the Nursery despite having received many millions from central government.
5. Sunderland City Council has failed to provide additional funding for this Nursery and other maintained nurseries to clear any outstanding deficits despite having an underspend of over £4 million.
6. The budget forecast produced by Sunderland City Council to 'justify' the closure is inaccurate and forecast additional pupils will eliminate the projected deficit.
7. Sunderland City Council deliberately distorted facts relating to the uplift given to the Nursery as the reason for at least one other nursery school going into deficit.
8. Sunderland City Council will be putting the Health and Safety of young and vulnerable children from the Nursery at risk by transferring them to temporary demountable classrooms /asbestos ridden reconfigured building for a period of up to 3 years.
9. Sunderland City Council's Cabinet took the decision to move forward to a statutory consultation 5 days before the pre consultation closed and this did not permit all responses to be considered.

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 14:42

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School

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To whom it may concern.

I strongly object to the proposal of Sunderland City Council to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole for a number reasons. A child I was an au pair for travelled to this Nursery for their outstanding provision from another county. I was very impressed with the provision.

It is not surprising that Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is the only early years provision/ nursery that is graded as outstanding by Ofsted and there is no other setting currently that can match the standard of the provision provided. I recommend this nursery to all families and friends with children that I know and a little boy will be joining the nursery next year. The family visited the Nursery based on my recommendation and now will not consider any other provision.

Finally, the council will not clear the nursery deficit or provide adequate funding despite having an underspend of over £4 million. This is terrible and will have a huge impact on many family and the future children who deserve this amazing start to their education. Leaders and governors have worked extremely hard to balance the budget in difficult circumstances.

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 14:53

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject:

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee,

I write to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School. It has been a huge part of Hetton and my family for many generation now. I wen to this outstanding nursery and would be devastated to see it be no more.

To close the nursery when so many young children are so severely affected emotionally and socially by the pandemic we find ourselves in, is unbelievably irresponsible and neglectful of the council. The impact on the children should be the first priority of the council, not finances. The cost of moving children to new settings away from peers and staff, they have for the last year treated as their family when actual family have been kept at arms reach is deplorable. This could not only result in the council still having the outstanding deficit and redundancy fees incurred, but also an increased number of children including family members children needing additional emotional support at an increased cost to new setting and thus the council. I urge you to reconsider this and put the children first in a time when they need stability most. The parents, school staff, Hetton Town Council and school governors are more than willing to set an agreed financial plan with the council to ensure the deficit does not increase in this next year and they can work on reducing the deficit. No members of the council have engaged in conversations around a financial plan with all stakeholders and those most directly impacted by this decision. It is unbelievable the councils inability to have these conversations and set a action plan, from what has been looked into there are still avenues and financial options available that could be explored and exhausted first before a council even considers closing a nursery. As far as any of us are concerned this has not been done!

Yours sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 14:55

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject:

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

My name is Pauline Whittaker and I object to Sunderland city council proposal to close Hetton-le-hole nursery school. My grandchild currently attends the outstanding nursery and has attended this setting from being 10 months old and transitioned from the baby room through to main nursery. It saddens me to think that this setting may no longer be here for my future grandchildren to attend. The staff go above and beyond to attend to every need of the children as well as their families. I understand that the nursery is in a deficit and can say staff and parents are always thinking of new ideas and ways to fundraise. It has recently come to light that Sunderland city council have an underspend of £4 million pounds however they have failed to provide any extra funding to maintained nursery schools to help clear any deficits they currently have. The deficit the nursery has seems like a drop in the ocean in comparison to that large amount of underspent money. Please consider all of these objection and think about what really matters here and that is children's well being and education.

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 15:05

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject:

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I formally object to the closure of Hetton le Hole nursery. Working in the local community has allowed me to see the importance of the provision and see how happy the children are that attend there. It is unacceptable to close an outstanding nursery for financial reasons when the council has a £4 million understand on early years education, this money could be used to support the nursery.

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 15:07

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Proposed closure of Hetton Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Dear Sir,

I am objecting to the closure of the above Nursery School which has been part of our community for 76 years and is the only Nursery rated OUTSTANDING by Ofsted in the area.

WHY ??? Our children are happy there, it is very well led and a safe environment for them to thrive.

The council are wanting to close due to underfunding but they could very easily 'wipe out the deficit' if they chose to.

Millions of other businesses have lost money during COVID but unlike other businesses the Nursery has had no government support.

To close this Nursery School would be detrimental to the area. The school is situated in the centre of Hetton, easily accessible for parents/grandparents with a large car park adjacent to the premises which makes it the safest Nursery in the area.

Regards

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 15:30

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Closure of Hetton Nursery.

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

To whom it may concern,

I would like to object to the closure of Hetton nursery. I work at Hetton Lyons Primary School and live in Hetton Le Hole. The nursery is a major part of the community within Hetton. We have a very high rate of deprivation in the area and the nursery gives children an opportunity to play, explore and make friends in a safe indoor and an amazing outdoor environment. The history of the nursery is important to local families and myself, my husband and my daughter all attended the nursery. All nurseries are struggling with budget cuts across Sunderland and something must be done! Local council should be forcing our government to support our Education in the North East. We have successful Businesses, Colleges and Universities but children under five do not have a voice. These little ones deserve a great start to life and I feel this nursery offers that.

Thank you for your time.

I hope something can be done.

Yours sincerely

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 15:31

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton nursery

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I object to the closure of hetton nursery

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 15:53

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject:

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I am a grandmother and have lived in Hetton for 25 years . My granddaughter went to this nursery and she is now 26 years old .. It is outrageous to even consider closing this outstanding nursery..totally outrageous. It has an excellent ofsted rating and we will be in dire need of a local nursery.. with such a degree of excellence

Regards

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 16:16

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject:

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

To whom it may concern,

I am opposed to the closure of Hetton Nursery School. I am worried that if the nursery closes, people who live in Hetton Downs might not be able to travel all of the way to the new site planned. That is quite a distance for young families with small children to travel to. A lot of new houses have been built recently which surely would mean the nursery would be needed even more?

It has an excellent reputation and I think this would be a huge mistake letting it close.

If families decide the new nursery is too far too travel to, we could have children missing out on essential early years learning. For this reason I hope you re-think your proposal.

Yours sincerely

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 16:37

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>
Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk
Subject: Hetton le Hole Nursery

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Hi there

It is with great sadness that I am having to write this email about the proposed closure of Hetton le Hole nursery.

I have 4 grandchildren 3 have been through the nursery and are now at school and my youngest grandson Jude is attending now. He needs his routine and been at nursery gives him this and changing nurseries will be a nightmare for him and I am sure that the stability of other children will be a concern for other parents. We do not live near the nursery and we travel to get there and we are happy to do this as the nursery has an excellent teaching ethic. My daughters chose the nursery for its excellent Ofsted results after looking around the area and reading up on all the nurseries. Surely an excellent Ofsted means something! it does to me. The fact that they have a qualified SEND teacher is priceless as the children who are falling behind are helped along and supported. We are all going through strange times at the moment and the fact that this has been thrust on staff, children and parents is unbelievable and by the presence of all the endless fund raising and campaigning shows the passion everyone feels against the closure. My grandson has attended nursery during lockdown and has thrived with been able to be safe and still have the chance to interact with other children and also the staff who have kept the children safe by their impeccable cleaning and safety measures.

I understand that the council has not provided any COVID-19 funding despite receiving many millions of pounds from central government. WHY? Had you already made your mind up that you were condemning it. As well as the staff not been furloughed during the pandemic which is unacceptable you are now happy to accept that only some of them will not be needed at Hetton Primary and will have the added pressure of trying to find jobs in this unprecedented time. Shocking!!!!

It took my daughters long enough to decide on their nursery choice and yet you have decided for them that my grandson will attend Hetton Primary. We had the choice of Newbottle nursery but went with our hearts and chose Hetton le hole nursery as it has brought the other 3 on so much with its excellent teaching skills. You have made the choice that they will be in temporary classrooms until their school is ready in 2022 this must be costing the council a small fortune that you are not bothered in wasting when they could be in their safe asbestos free nursery.

Year after year the nursery has had budgeting cuts making it impossible for the nursery to be financially stable and staff taking on dual jobs in the nursery to reduce costings. To me it sounds like you have had this planned now for a long time and have been trying to make it impossible for them to survive. The plan allows the only Ofsted graded outstanding nursery in Hetton le Hole to be lost in the interest of short term cost saving.

My 3 grandchildren have all left the nursery after making outstanding progress and have left at above age related expectations.

The community have shown sheer determination to help the nursery survive with parents putting together a financial plan to improve the nursery's situation yet they have not been allowed to share the plan! Why is this surely they deserve a chance to have a voice at least?

The staff are highly skilled, kind and caring and bring the children on loads. They go above and beyond to support the children and families. My grandchildren loved attending and came on so much which has helped them now in their school years.

I implore you to keep the nursery open and give it a chance. We do not want our children in temporary buildings or at Hetton Primary we want them at Hetton le Hole nursery where they belong.

Regards

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 17:27

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton-le-Hole Nursery Objection

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Please take this email as my objection to the closure of Hetton-le-Hole nursery school. Having had family members who previously attend and who currently attend it is not fair that parents are expected to move their children, especially during a pandemic.

The nursery has been part of the community for over 75 years and there's no other outstanding provision within Hetton itself.

I also believe that financially the nursery hasn't been given a fair opportunity to turn things around as the deficit itself is inherited and therefore it should be wiped.

Kind Regards

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 17:29

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton-le-hole nursery objection

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I object to the closure of Hetton-le-hole nursery.

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 17:30

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le hole nursery

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Hi there

I would like to take this opportunity to email you with my objections to the closure of Hetton le hole nursery school.

My 3 grandchildren have attended the nursery and my youngest grandson still attends. I am deeply disappointed that the Nursery might be closing and I object strongly against the closure.

Regards

From < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 17:39

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Closure of Hetton Lyons Nursery School Consultation - OBJECT

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

Hello I am emailing to object to the closure. The nursery is vital to the area. I myself attended this nursery over 29years ago and I have many fond memories. I still live in the area and one of the reasons I still live here was the services in the area.

The local nursery is ideally located for the residents of this side of Hetton. It is a vital resource for the community.

I believe that the statistics are not adding up.

The area over recent years has had many houses demolished so for the last few years the amount of families in the area has possibly reduced.

The building of new housing has taken a few years but now new families are moving into the new builds with the knowledge that they have facilities nearby to support their families. In a years time when the houses are built and people settle in/start families there will be a massive demand for childcare in the area.

Please consider the future of this community and support our families by keeping this vital resource open.

Many Thanks for your consideration

From: >

Sent: 21 March 2021 17:41

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton-le-hole nursery Objection

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I object to the closure of Hetton le hole nursery school.

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 17:46

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Closure of Hetton le Hole nursery.

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

To whom it may concern

I wish to convey my anger at the proposed closure of of this wonderful nursery that has been part of and served the community of Hetton for many, many years.

The nursery has an excellent reputation in the area and is rated outstanding. This is evident through the amazing hard work and standards that the staff have in place that makes this such a wonderful place for young children to start their development and socialisation skills.

I am 37 years of age and I can still remember my time at this nursery.

Through these hard times we are experiencing many children having had their development hindered by their inability to attend nursery and learn the vital skills that set them of their learning and development journey. Those who have been allowed to attend are amongst the most vulnerable in our communities. To take away this nursery, which at a young age they have come to know as a safe place where they can learn and be taught fundamental skills is a disgrace to say the very least. This opens these small minds to unrest, upheaval and the impact will be seen through mental health and behavioural issues going forward. When they have so many pressing issues on them already, as nothing about these times is "normal" this place, their nursery, is their stability.

To take children away from this nursery and place them into prefabricated buildings is an unnecessary, waste of money. A waste that, if the local community had been consulted and allowed to make the decision, would never have even been considered.

This proposal needs to be reconsidered and the people who use and will be effected by its closure need to be listened to and not ignored.

Thank you for your time.

Regards

-----Original Message-----

From: <>

Sent: 21 March 2021 17:50

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le Hole Nursery Objection

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To whom it may concern

As a grandparent I have 2 children who have attended and are currently attending the Hetton le Hole Nursery and I have seen for myself the benefits of this outstanding establishment and I wish to object to the closure of it on the following grounds:

I understand that the proposed nursery has been reported as containing Asbestos. Any details of the current state of the Asbestos and any future proposed management of the hazardous substance and it's risks must be disclosed so that parents are fully informed of any potential risks and dangers that could effect persons using the establishment.

Street and School Car Parking at the proposed nursery is very limited and by increasing traffic and pedestrians this would only exacerbate the existing problems.

Parents shouldn't be excepted to move their children, especially during Covid, when it's been their only stability

There's no other outstanding provision within the hetton area.

The nursery has been part of the community for over 75 years.

There's no other use planned for the purpose built building.

The nursery setting is incomparable to others locally.

Financially the nursery hasn't been given fair Opportunity turn things round.

Fundraisers have raised over £3500 in a month, with fundraising alone the deficit could be written off.

The deficit is inherited- and is unfair.

50p increase per child an hour and a pupil recruitment drive are simple effective ways to make this nursery financially viable.

I would appreciate serious consideration is given to the above.

Kind regards

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 17:56

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.go.uk

Subject: Hetton nursery closure objection

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee,

I write to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School. It has been a huge part of Hetton and my family for many generation now. My husband and son went to this outstanding nursery and would be devastated to see it be no more.

To close the nursery when so many young children are so severely affected emotionally and socially by the pandemic we find ourselves in, is unbelievably irresponsible and neglectful of the council. The impact on the children should be the first priority of the council, not finances. The cost of moving children to new settings away from peers and staff, they have for the last year treated as their family when actual family have been kept at arms reach is deplorable. This could not only result in the council still having the outstanding deficit and redundancy fees incurred, but also an increased number of children including family members children needing additional emotional support at an increased cost to new setting and thus the council. I urge you to reconsider this and put the children first in a time when they need stability most. The parents, school staff, Hetton Town Council and school governors are more than willing to set an agreed financial plan with the council to ensure the deficit does not increase in this next year and they can work on reducing the deficit. No members of the council have engaged in conversations around a financial plan with all stakeholders and those most directly impacted by this decision. It is unbelievable the councils inability to have these conversations and set a action

plan, from what has been looked into there are still avenues and financial options available that could be explored and exhausted first before a council even considers closing a nursery. As far as any of us are concerned this has not been done!

Yours sincerely

From: <>

Sent: 21 March 2021 17:57

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Consultation - Closure of Hetton Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Good Afternoon,

I wish to object to the closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School and Childcare.

As a parent of a child who attended the Nursery School and a previous member of staff, I cannot express my disappointment enough on hearing of the possible closure of the Nursery School.

I would like to give you my view points from both the perspective of a parent and a member of staff.

Parent:

- My son began attending the Nursery when he was only 2 years old, he is now 10. I can honestly say that the experiences and support he received from the staff and learning environment is still with him now. It is called the 'foundation stage' for a reason!
- He was lucky enough to engage in the forest school at the time and explore the fantastic outdoor learning environment. He is now a confident, friendly, social boy with an array of different friends.
- Not only did the fantastic staff support him emotionally and socially but he made fantastic progress academically, ensuring he was ready for school and his Reception year; I do not believe a nursery class within a primary school or a private nursery would have prepared him in the way Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School did.

Staff:

- I was lucky enough to be part of an inspirational team. The training staff receive is tailored to the needs of the children and the Early Years sector.
- Nursery Schools proved a bespoke package for the children that attend. Too often, nursery aged children can be lost in a Primary setting, and swept away with the National Curriculum and the whole school rather than with a focus on the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- All of the staff that work at the nursery are invested in the helping the children make progress and supporting their wellbeing.
- Funding for nursery schools has been massively reduced, impacting directly on the staff and secondarily with the children. That said, staff have ensured the children do not feel the repercussions of it.
- Senior leaders and governors began to address the deficit and made leaps and bounds with this. Unfortunately, due to the global pandemic, and lack of support from the local council,

this has been impossible to continue. However, they have demonstrated that it is feasible to balance the books and I believe they can continue with this.

- Expert and skilled teaching will be lost due to the reduction of staff.
- Money will be spent on temporary classrooms and to reconfigure of the primary school when this could be given to an already well established, outstanding Nursery to support them through these unforeseen difficult times.

Regards,

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 18:01

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Hello

I object to the closure of this nursery. It has been a vital part of this community for many years. My daughter went to this Nursery many years ago. The Hetton community needs this nursery to support this far side of Hetton.

Please reconsider

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 18:08

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Objection to the closure of Hetton le Hole nursery school

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To who it may concern,

I object to the closure of Hetton le Hole nursery school.

Kind regards

-----Original Message-----

From <>

Sent: 21 March 2021 18:12

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton Le Hole - Nursery objection

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To whom it may concern.

I object to the closure of Hetton Le Hole nursery.

Parents will have no stability, even worse so in current times with covid restrictions.

Regards

From:

Sent: 21 March 2021 18:22

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton-le-hole nursery objection

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Hetton-le-hole nursery objection

I object to the closure of Hetton le hole nursery school.

Reasons why;

Parents shouldn't be expected to move their children, especially during Covid, when it's been their only stability

There's no other outstanding provision within hetton

The nursery has been part of the community for over 75 years

There's no other use planned for the purpose built building

The nursery setting is incomparable to others locally

Financially the nursery hasn't been given fair Opportunity turn things round

Fundraisers have raised over £3500 in a month, with fundraising alone the i year deficit could be wiped.

The deficit is inherited- it should be wiped

50p increase per child an hour and a pupil recruitment drive are simple effective ways to make this nursery financially viable.

Regards,

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 19:09

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth Williamson <Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection to closure of HLH Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

For the attention of Mr Rowan and the school organisation committee,

I am writing to you to formally object to the closure of Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School. My 2 year old daughter currently attends the school, and has done so since she was 8 months old. When selecting a nursery for her I ensured I chose a nursery that would provide the highest standard of care and education for her to narrow and close the gaps in her development due to ongoing health issues she has had since birth. My decision to send her to Hetton le Hole Nursery School was as a result of visiting the setting and instantly feeling this was the best place for my little girl both academically and socially/emotionally. That first instinct along with the schools results data and research suggesting maintained nursery schools offer a higher standard of education has proven to be right as [REDACTED] has made outstanding progress from her starting point under their care, and gaps in her development have narrowed. [REDACTED] has now moved from the baby room and is now currently in the toddler room. When deciding and selecting the nursery for her I wanted to ensure she was in one establishment from birth until her reception year. I did this to provide stability for her and also to work around my work commitments, finances and also my other family childcare arrangements. Penny is only part way through her early years journey at nursery and the transition will have a major impact on her emotional well-being. She is currently being assessed by a number of professionals each one commenting on how shy and reserved she is, this is a direct impact of the ongoing global pandemic. My daughter's extreme social shyness, exhibits itself when she comes into contact with unfamiliar adults and this now includes family members as she has not been able to see most of them throughout the pandemic. When unfamiliar adults are near her or try to speak or

engage her in activities she will cling to her familiar adults, cry, become distressed and this can result in her vomiting or becoming emotionally exhausted. It is because of this I feel a change in her nursery where she will be separated from her peers and familiar adults that have been her only other consistent during this pandemic would be truly detrimental to her development and well being. This negative impact, is avoidable and ill timed by the council when so many children and their families have had so much to deal with in such challenging times. It is because of her current needs than no other setting can meet the needs of my child as well as Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School does.

It is evident from the discussions I have had with staff and the comments in the nurseries ofsted reports that the staff expertise and leadership skills at this school are of the highest standards. This expertise and skill set will be lost if the nursery were to close. Splitting staffing between the limited opportunities at Hetton Primary and other nurseries means skill sets and expertise will be diluted and in many cases lost all together. Staff using makaton for example has directly benefited my little girl in gaining confidence to communicate her needs and their understanding of allergies, sensory processing and signs of visibility issues are all skills my daughter has directly benefited from. It is very much a team around my little girl at the nursery and everyone's input that is helping her to progress so well.

The nursery has a qualified SENDco who is an early years specialist and is able to support all children who have additional needs to make outstanding progress during their time at nursery. For parents like myself and many others this is of the upmost importance as our children need that expertise and experience to ensure they succeed. I have witnessed how speedily referrals have been made for my daughter, how the school team work with professionals to get the trickiest customers, like Penny, assessed by outside agencies and as a result make plans to ensure the children's needs are met. SEN children and children with additional needs need an outstanding start to give them the life chances they deserve and I know this is what the children at this nursery school get as I have seen it with my own daughter. I will forever be grateful to the staff for the amazing support they give my daughter daily and how speedily they have made referrals to meet her needs.

Children in nursery schools are less at risk during a Covid pandemic than those in a primary provision. The government reopened nurseries long before primary schools so my daughter quickly returned to nursery resulting in her having a smaller break in her education. The pandemic is still ongoing and there is a possibility that we may need to go into full lockdown again, something that was predicted early last year at the hospital my sister works in and has already been seen in other countries across the world. Stability, consistency and familiarity for the children is of upmost importance to ensure they meet their development milestones in such challenging times. With the possibility of another lockdown and restricted measures in place again being highly likely in the late autumn/ winter time it is vital this nursery remains open to support children they know and give them the best academic education and emotional support when their lives change again.

Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is the only early years nursery that is graded as outstanding by Ofsted in Hetton. Now more than ever children need an outstanding start to their education due to the inevitable declines in social and communication skills exacerbated by the ongoing global pandemic. No other setting currently can match the standard of the provision provided within the Hetton ward. The suggestion of Houghton Community Nursery School as an alternative provision is simply not an option for many parents like myself for a number of reasons. It is not accessible to many local families who live in Hetton as all

parents do not have access to a car daily for nursery drop offs and collections. Those parents who do have car access would be adding to daily commutes, and for many parents like me it is too far in the opposite direction to their place of work for this to be a suitable alternative. There are also no guarantees of places at these other settings for our children meaning the guidance around alternative places being of equal standard and quantity when providing alternative provisions for parents when a school is proposed to be closed are not being met.

I understand that there is a need to balance the books and look at finances, that is something the nursery have been very open to from the start of this consultation and proposal process. I think the timing of such a closure further impacting on our youngest children however is much more important. Finances need to be balanced, but children's emotional well-being, standards of education and parental choice to send their child to an outstanding establishment locally in these times must take priority and I ask you as both a mother and educationalist to enter into discussions with the nursery and formulate a plan to save it. My child has been significantly impacted by covid with her emotional well being and speech being affected the most, she will not cope in a new setting and I have made this clear in the multiple phone calls, emails and discussions I have had in regards to the proposal. What is the cost associated with forcing this change on children when they are not yet able to cope with these changes? For me a price cannot be put on an outstanding education or a child's mental state and happiness. There are alternatives available, there are ways to make this nursery remain open and whilst there are discussions to be had and decisions to be made to enable my little girl to stay where she feels safe, happy and cared for and is educated so very well, then I can see no other outcome other than for the nursery to remain open. It has been acknowledged in documented meetings that the financial vulnerability of the Nursery is not due to mismanagement of funds but due to the methodology behind the funding formula and the unavoidable costs associated with a Maintained Nursery School. Funding decisions about Maintained Nursery Schools have not been made by parliament and the government is urging local authorities to hold off making decisions about their longer-term futures until these decisions have been made*. The council are saying that the nursery has a deficit of up to £200,000 that they do not have the capacity to clear and they cannot support financially moving forward. They also say that the nursery is de-stabilising the other maintained nurseries because of the lower contribution and higher outtake of the lump sum. The main reason put forward for this closure is financial, however there are significant underspends in both the Early Years Inclusion Funding and Pupil Funding budgets. The combined underspend in the last three years amounts to £4,014,000. Such underspends have resulted in a direct impact on the budgets and survival of all of the Maintained Nursery Schools. The council could utilise those underspent funds to save the maintained nursery sector in Sunderland, who are currently being disadvantaged by surplus funds not being used effectively. Nursery Schools are required to provide high quality early education, led by specialist headteachers, and delivered by qualified teachers especially in deprived areas and to put parents and families at the centre of their work.

DFE guidance (November 2019) stipulates that the decision-maker should give the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. As a parent of a child who currently attends the nursery, and as a parent who responded to the pre consultation, in which 92% of those responding did not agree with plans to close the nursery, I ask all committee members to work with all stakeholders to formulate a plan to save this nursery and to give my daughter and her peers who attend the nursery the stability they need, the education they deserve and leave them in a nursery where they feel safe with adults who know them well and care for them. Give the children the time they deserve to recover from the effects of this cruel

pandemic which had impacted their short lives so much and let's do what everyone wants to do and keep this nursery open.

Hetton le Hole nursery is not alone in this financial vulnerability. The implication of the Early Years Funding formula is now impacting across the wider Maintained Nursery School sector. Financial Benchmarking data reveals that in the last two years the number of Maintained Nursery Schools in Sunderland ending the year with a deficit balance is on the increase. In the funding year 2018-2019 four out of eight Maintained Nursery Schools ended the year with a deficit In-year balance. In the funding year 2019-2020 five out of eight Maintained Nursery Schools ended the year with a deficit In-year balance. Reserves are diminishing as Maintained Nursery Schools are having to endure funding shortfalls each year, this paints a bleak picture. We need to ensure our nursery schools are all protected starting with Hetton le Hole Nursery School. The current proposal allows the only ofsted graded outstanding nursery in Hetton-le-Hole to be lost in the interest of short-term cost saving. The long term impact of the lump sum being shared amongst the other maintained nursery schools will be insignificant.

As a result of closing the only outstanding nursery in Hetton the council would be effectively causing families from a deprived area of Sunderland to not have access to an outstanding nursery when it is needed most. It is my belief both as a mother and as an educationalist that all children are entitled to the very best education and Hetton le Hole has been recognised as a nursery which allows children to flourish and achieve outstandingly well in spite of their home circumstances, low starting points and family backgrounds.

Children and parents have suffered immensely as a result of the Covid pandemic and do not need this type of upheaval. I have my own role in a school to focus upon and my own families to support I do not need the additional worry, stress and anxiety caused by this proposal and the threat of closure keeping me awake at night. I never thought an outstanding nursery would be proposed to be closed and finances alone should not be the driving factor in any decisions to do so. My daughter is my world and her needs are my priority which is why I chose such an amazing setting to put her in for the first years of her life. She will simply not cope with a change in setting now as she has been affected immensely, like many children from Covid and the effects of covid on our lives. This is why she needs the nursery to remain open to ensure she has time to adjust socially and emotionally before moving into the next phase of her education in school. I have no doubt if she remains at Hetton le Hole Nursery School, with the adults and peers that have become her only other consistent during this pandemic, she will not only be ready emotionally for her transition into reception but she will excel having made outstanding progress academically too. She needs time to adjust when Covid restrictions are lifted and gain the social skills needed to do this.

Please reconsider and engage in discussions so our children are not further affected by this pandemic.

Yours sincerely

From: <

Sent: 21 March 2021 19:43

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: : Nursery Closure

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Sent from my Samsung device

----- Original message -----

From:

Date: 21/03/2021 7:04 p.m. (GMT+00:00)

To:

Subject: Nursery Closure

I am writing to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery.

Education is vital at every stage of a persons development, we have all been there and experienced this. It must be deeply upsetting for the children, families and staff that an Outstanding nursery is to be closed and new provisions not to be built until a much later date. The community are clearly passionate and care deeply about the local nursery and people from outside the immediate community are even compelled to be involved in the fight against the closure of the nursery.

Hetton le Hole Nursery is the only Outstanding provision and it seems the council are wanting to make short term spending savings to the detriment of the everyone who is involved or cares about this nursery. I find it shocking to hear the local council have an early years underspend of £4 million pound. Votes in the constituencies of Sunderland prioritise education and nationally during the pandemic the government have highlighted the importance of more funding for education and catch up yet the labour council of Sunderland are happy to underspend and not support local education.

This nursery needs to be protected for the sake of the community and future generations.

-----Original Message-----

From: <>

Sent: 21 March 2021 19:47

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth.Williamson@schools.Sunderland.g

Subject: Objection to closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School

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Dear Sir

I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole because:

1. Sunderland City Council has failed to comply with the Department of Education Guidance of November 2019 of giving the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools.
2. Sunderland City Council has permitted and encouraged unfair competition by allowing numerous private nurseries to undercut state schools.

3. Sunderland City Council has been derelict in its duties by not actively involving and discussing with the Nursery, its governors, residents, families and Hetton Town Council possible ways to overcome the difficulties of falling roll numbers.
4. Sunderland City Council has not provided any Covid-19 relief funds to the Nursery despite having received many millions from central government.
5. Sunderland City Council has failed to provide additional funding for this Nursery and other maintained nurseries to clear any outstanding deficits despite having an underspend of over £4 million.
6. The budget forecast produced by Sunderland City Council to 'justify' the closure is inaccurate and forecast additional pupils will eliminate the projected deficit.
7. Sunderland City Council deliberately distorted facts relating to the uplift given to the Nursery as the reason for at least one other nursery school going into deficit.
8. Sunderland City Council will be putting the Health and Safety of young and vulnerable children from the Nursery at risk by transferring them to temporary demountable classrooms /asbestos ridden reconfigured building for a period of up to 3 years.
9. Sunderland City Council's Cabinet took the decision to move forward to a statutory consultation 5 days before the pre consultation closed and this did not permit all responses to be considered.

My grandson attends this excellent nursery and his progress has been nothing but remarkable I therefore why close this nursery with it OUstnading status and affect his education

Yours faithfully

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 20:02

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Keep Hetton-le-Hole Nursery Open!

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to strongly object to the proposal of the closure Hetton-le-Hole Nursery for the many reasons.

Most importantly, Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is a hugely valued part of the community. It is the only nursery that is graded as outstanding by Ofsted and no other provider compares to the quality of provision offered.

This proposal is based solely on budget issues when the DFE guidance states that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget.

Funding has not been sufficient and the leadership of the nursery have done all that they can to maintain a healthy budget. However, this deficit could have been cleared though had the council used some of the £4 million underspend from the last 3 years.

Should children have to suffer because of the council's budget decisions?

In addition to this DFE guidance also states that there should be alternative provisions of the same quality for children to attend. This is not the case. Would you be satisfied to uproot your own child from Outstanding provision where they are happy and in such a positive environment to one that they do not know and hasn't the same standard of education and care?

Covid has brought so many issues for children and parents. The closure of the nursery will certainly cause more emotional trauma to the children. This is completely unacceptable.

As a teacher myself I have had the pleasure to teach children who have started their education learning journey at Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School and it is completely apparent of the excellent opportunities and outstanding early education they have had from the amazing provider.

As a parent I would be heartbroken for my child's early education to be taken away from them and not have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

I urge you to keep this outstanding nursery open and to ensure they receive the funding they need to be able to successfully continue to provide an outstanding education for the children of Hetton Le Hole and beyond.

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 20:47

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: HETTON NURSERY SCHOOL CLOSURE

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the closure of Hetton Nursery School.

I believe the council are making a terrible decision in closing this Nursery School. It is one within the area which is rated as Outstanding by Ofsted. Why would anyone want to close something so good within the area. Achieving an outstanding rating is not an easy task, this in itself demonstrates the commitment, skills and hard working ethic that the staff within this Nursery School possess.

Please listen to the the wants and needs of the residents within this community; DO NOT CLOSE HETTON NURSERY.

I'm sure other residents have raised their concerns surrounding the logistics of the proposed new nursery, in addition to concerns surrounding disrupting the lives of these children by placing them in prefabricated buildings in the meantime as a stop gap. The new proposed site is not a small child friendly environment. My thoughts reflect those of other residents in that it is unnecessary and simply ludicrous; in an already unprecedented and challenging time please listen to the community and do not cause further disruption and unsettle for our children.

Kind regards

Hetton Resident

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 20:51

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth.Williamson@schools.Sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Objection to the Discontinue (close) of Hetton le Hole Nursery School,

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Dear Sirs,

As a life-long resident of the Hetton ward, I email in utter amazement at the proposed plans to discontinue (close) Hetton-le-Hole Nursey School. This Nursery School has been in place at the Brewery Field Site for a number of generations and provides a centrally based location to provide an excellent education to the pre-school population of Hetton-le-Hole. At least three generations of my own family have benefitted from the education that they received from this Outstanding provision.

In recent times we have seen the establishment of pre-school provision at Eppleton Primary Academy School, the opening of the private Nursery School of Hetton House and now we have plans agreed to extend the school roll at Hetton Primary School including lowering of the age of entry. The traffic issues that will develop on Moorsley Rd do not bear thinking about and yet the planned closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery is still going ahead.

The Nursery is located between the churches of Hetton Methodist Church and my own church of Hetton Independent Methodist Church, where we have welcomed the Nursery on numerous occasions for their seasonal events to which parents and family have attended. This will no longer be feasible due to the considerable distance the pupils would have to walk from Hetton Primary School to our church. This social development of the youngsters in our historic social buildings seems very short-sighted at least.

In particular reference to the proposed closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School, the only school in the Hetton ward rated as outstanding by Ofsted this should mean the school is showcased and funded an appropriate level to offer training and support to

other Nursery schools and nursery provision rather than being faced with the threat of closure.

Like many, my particular points opposing the closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery, are as follows:

1. I am led to believe that Sunderland City Council has failed to comply with the Department of Education Guidance of November 2019 of giving the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools.
2. Sunderland City Council has permitted and encouraged unfair competition by allowing numerous private nurseries to undercut state schools.
3. Sunderland City Council has been derelict in its duties by not actively involving and discussing with the Nursery, its governors, residents, families and Hetton Town Council possible ways to overcome the difficulties of falling roll numbers.
4. Sunderland City Council has not provided any Covid-19 relief funds to the Nursery despite having received many millions from central government.
5. Sunderland City Council has failed to provide additional funding for this Nursery and other maintained nurseries to clear any outstanding deficits despite having an underspend of over £4 million.
6. The budget forecast produced by Sunderland City Council to 'justify' the closure is inaccurate and forecast additional pupils will eliminate the projected deficit.
7. Sunderland City Council deliberately distorted facts relating to the uplift given to the Nursery as the reason for at least one other nursery school going into deficit.
8. Sunderland City Council will be putting the Health and Safety of young and vulnerable children from the Nursery at risk by transferring them to temporary demountable classrooms /asbestos ridden reconfigured building for a period of up to 3 years.
9. Sunderland City Council's Cabinet took the decision to move forward to a statutory consultation 5 days before the pre consultation closed and this did not permit all responses to be considered.

Should you desire me to upload these comments onto the portal then I am more than happy to oblige.

Best Wishes,

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in response to the proposal to close Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School. I am deeply saddened by this proposal and was in grave shock when I found out that the council was going to begin a closure process.

I have worked within this nursery since 2015, my children have attended this nursery and my youngest child is currently in the baby room. Family members have also attended this nursery. It has been part of our lives for such a long time and the thought of my child having to begin a settling process within another nursery whilst she is already part way through her journey at nursery worries me deeply as I believe it will have a major impact on her emotional well-being. There is no other setting that I feel will honestly meet the needs of my child and it is the only early years provision within my local area that is graded outstanding by Ofsted.

I am now also at risk of losing my job and because of this I feel like I have had to accept a job within the NHS as I need to think about my future, and that of my family. I have lost all faith within the local authority and education system and need to secure an income for my family, especially during a global pandemic. Many children and parents, as well as my own family, have suffered immensely as a result of the Covid pandemic and we do not need this as another worry.

The Council has not provided any Covid-19 relief funds to the despite having received many millions of pounds from central government. The Nursery has incurred £76,000 of Covid-19 losses this year, however despite this the closing deficit (in year) was £58,449. The nursery was unable to furlough staff due to them being council employees.

Budget cuts have been made to the nursery funding, making it impossible for it to be financially stable. The leadership team have completed restructures and the headteacher has looked at many ways in reducing the costings across the nursery. The nursery is not alone in this financial vulnerability. The implication of the Early Years Funding formula is now impacting the other Maintained Nursery School sector.

Alan Rowan has documented that the financial vulnerability of the Nursery is not due to mismanagement of funds but due to the methodology behind the funding formula and the costs of Maintained Nursery Schools. This has also been brought up in parliament (APPG) and the government is urging local authorities to hold off making decisions about their longer-term futures.

The local authority is yet to provide the governors or parents with alternative options that they have considered before planning a full closure. In discussions with the school and governors it was made clear there are no alternatives, despite leaders being open to suggestions. Financial Benchmarking data reveals that in the last two years the number of Maintained Nursery Schools in Sunderland ending the year with a deficit balance is on the increase, so why target our Nursery. There obviously needs to be some kind of rethink of how to adequately fund maintained nurseries.

Sunderland City Council permitted a private nursery to open within 0.5 miles of the nursery when the market for early years provision was already inundated with providers, so why could the council not have safeguarded the only outstanding provision within the area.

The nursery is at the heart of the community and has been established since 1945. This was the first ever Maintained Nursery School in Sunderland. My children are now achieving beyond expected at school because of the excellent foundation they received from the nursery. The staff that my children worked with, and that I currently work with, are highly skilled, kind and caring. They are also my work colleagues and together we are a family that go above and beyond to support the children and families that we work with.

Please reconsider the impact of this disappointing proposal, for the sake of the children, their families, the community and also the staff that work there.

From:

Sent: 21 March 2021 21:16

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le Hole Nursery School

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I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole.

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 21:39

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton-le-Hole nursery objection

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I object to the closure of Hetton-le-Hole nursery school.

Parents shouldn't be expected to move their children especially in these uncertain times with COVID when we all need stability.

50p increase an hour per child and a pupil recruitment drive will make the nursery financially stable.

The nursery has been part of the community for over 75 years and financially it hasn't been given a chance to turn things round. Also there is no other planned use for the building.

Kind Regards

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 23:07

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton Le Hole Nursery Closure

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I object to the closure of Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School, why? Read the following...

We as parents should not be expected to move our "little ones" away from an environment where they have built such strong relationships with each other, friendships with others and the trust of their teachers. I am heartbroken to predict that other children will not get the chance to experience the same.

Our children are so excited to attend Hetton Nursery to meet their peers of which, could end up being life long friends in the future, I've noticed the education they receive has built their intelligence and self confidence so much especially during Covid.

Our children have become used to their routine and to their Nursery surroundings, to most it has been their only stability this past year.

50p increase per child an hour and a pupil recruitment drive are simple, effective ways to make our nursery financially viable.

Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery has been such a success for over 75 years, of which our parents , grandparents and great grandparents can tell a story or two and is such a GREAT asset to our local community.

There is no other planned purpose for this golden gem of a nursery.

The nursery environment is incomparable to others locally and the nursery has NOT been given a fair opportunity to turn things round financially.

I must stress our local community has raised over £3,500 alone in ONE month which says so much about the passion and dedication parents have to save our "little ones" nursery.

I hope you realise you are risking our children to become unsettled if forced to go elsewhere and they will not understand why!

PLEASE PLEASE reconsider! You have the support from your local community, all we hope for is our children's welfare, happiness and outstanding learning we continue to receive from Hetton Nursery

Please keep our Nursery running ❤️

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 21 March 2021 23:08

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton Nursery

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Hello,

I would like you to reconsider closing Hetton Nursery. My grandson has recently started at the Herron Nursery and my daughter is really happy with his progress and the lovely supportive staff. If the Herron Nursery was to close she would have much further to walk as she does not have a car and is about to have another baby who we would all like to attend Hetton Nursery in due course. I get to hear all about what Ivan gets up to at Nursery and I really liked the Valentine's gifts he made for his mummy and daddy-I felt that that was very thoughtful.

My daughter is very upset at the thought of Hetton Nursery closing as it is working so well. It would be a shame if the children would have to loose their new found friendships and I'm sure the staff would miss the children too. Why break up something long standing and well regarded?.

Once again can I ask you to reconsider closing Hetton Nursery-it sounds like a lovely place for young children to learn, make friends and be happy.

Regards,

From: <

Sent: 21 March 2021 23:08

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to express my views on the potential closure of Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School and to state that I object to the closure of this nursery school.

The first thing I would like to do is to tell you a little bit about myself and my family. I attended this nursery school in 1999 as a very young yet very impressionable toddler. When I started attending this nursery school, my parents were a fairly new married couple with two young children; myself born in 1996 and one of my younger siblings who was born in 1998. My parents then went on to have a third child in 2000 and then separated in 2001. My father worked full time and my mother took care of the household duties and took care of me and my two siblings at the time. Now as everybody knows, life goes on and people remarry and go on to have second families and this is often better for everyone involved. I ended up being the eldest of four children to my mother, and the eldest of five children to my father. So all in all, I have three younger sisters, then a younger brother followed by another sister. I want to say that we all went to this nursery, but it didn't stop there. My eldest niece and my two godsons went to this nursery. My youngest niece currently attends this nursery in the two year old room, my unborn nephew would also attend this nursery when the time comes and I hope that one day my own children will attend this nursery just like I did all those years ago.

This is the place where I made some of my very first memories. I remember getting excited carrying my snack money in my pocket and feeling so important. I remember making bonds with my first ever best friends. I remember playing in the big garden, riding around on the red trikes in all kinds of weather. I remember playing in the paddling pool in the summer and making snowmen and snow angels in the winter. I remember going on a bear hunt around the garden and playing in the mud. I remember feeling happy. I remember learning the alphabet, I remember learning how to write my name and learning how to count. I remember learning to tie my shoelaces and how proud I felt when I finally did it. I remember the staff always smiling, there was never a frown in sight. More importantly, I remember being excited about going to nursery to see my friends, to learn and to see the staff.

My niece is currently part way through her journey at nursery and the transition would have a major impact on both hers and her mothers emotional well-being. They have both built a good rapport with the staff at Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School and they would both have to start that process all over again should the nursery close. Not only would this have an impact on their emotional wellbeing, but this closure would have a major impact on the quality of care and learning given to them as Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School is the only facility in the area that has been graded as Outstanding by Ofsted. This being said, is it fair for people to be asked to settle for second best? The support at this nursery school for both children with special educational needs and their parents is exceptional. Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School has a qualified coordinator who specialises in children in the early years category who have

additional needs and can therefore currently receive these additional needs and support mechanisms at this nursery whereas in other nursery facilities, this may not be available. This then puts the children who need that help and support at a major disadvantage as essentially by closing the nursery, you are taking away that support. All of the staff at this nursery are highly skilled, qualified, kind and caring and they would do their absolute best to go above and beyond for every child in their care. I can proudly say from personal experience that this nursery has provided my family with extra support when caring for a child, both myself and the youngest sister included, when it comes to medical needs.

As previously mentioned, a lot of my family members have attended and are now highly successful because of the excellent foundation they received from the nursery. For example, I achieved fantastic grades throughout school and I am now a Tax Advisor working for HMRC, one of my sisters is a Teaching Assistant in a primary school, another sister is a full time mother with one daughter and a son on the way, one sister is studying at college, my brother is currently working towards GCSEs, my youngest sister is doing an amazing job at school, my oldest niece and my godsons are constantly receiving awards for their amazing efforts and achievements at school, and like I said earlier, my youngest niece is just starting her journey through education.

A lot of people say that nursery is all about playing and you don't really learn anything from it. Well I disagree, Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School built the fundamentals of a variety of skills for me, as previously mentioned. The point I'm making is that some of these fundamentals may look like playing but in fact these fundamentals can have a great impact on a child. This nursery school is where I developed my social skills, I made friends, I learned how to share and wait my turn. I developed my hand-eye coordination by doing various tasks and I learnt a great deal more from this nursery school, not only as a child but as an adult too.

Another point I would like to make is that the Covid-19 pandemic has put people through a lot of uncertainty with some losing their jobs, others being furloughed and some sadly losing loved ones due to the virus itself. Deciding to potentially close this nursery would have a major impact on a lot of these individuals as many would have relied on relatives who could have looked after the children in question but are unable to as the majority of the county are in a situation where we still cannot visit our friends and families. Although, it was mentioned by parliament that for childcare purposes you may mix with another household, this isn't always the case, especially if your loved ones are classed as vulnerable due to health reasons. With this being said, is now really the right time to be making such decisions? The staff at Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School have worked throughout the pandemic and have gone to extreme lengths to ensure that every child is safe from any risk possible in the nursery setting. They have worn face masks and visors and this nursery has created bubbles to ensure that no bubble mixes with another, again putting the children's safety first.

As a current HMRC employee, I understand, possibly more than most, that the country has done a lot to support UK citizens in many ways during this pandemic, such as the 'furlough scheme', the 'self employed income support scheme' and the 'eat out to help out scheme'. These were all run by HMRC so I can see things from a business perspective as well as a personal one when looking at the closure of Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School. The first thing I would like to point out when looking at the business side of things is the financial costs involved, it is a known fact that the council is allocating over five million pounds on a new build and the consultation report for the new build mentions that further money would be spent on a number of things including ICT equipment, furniture and demolition. The question in relation to this is, why can't the council clear the nursery deficit or at least provide an adequate amount of funding to keep Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School open? The community

of Hetton have shown a great amount of determination to help save the nursery. Parents have come together to come up with ideas, plans and solutions to the nursery's situation but haven't been given the opportunity to share their ideas with the council at this time. The parents and staff of the nursery have raised funds in the region of £3,000 in just a couple of weeks, and I can only imagine that this will be continuing until a final decision is made. The Department for Education guidance states that 'maintained nursery schools' should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget position.

Bert Lance once said "if it ain't broke, dont fix it" which I'm sure you can see makes total and complete sense as this nursery school is at the heart of Hetton, and there is nowhere else in the vicinity that can provide this level of care for the children like Hetton Le Hole Nursery School can.

Kind regards,

From: <

Sent: 21 March 2021 23:31

To: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk; School Organisation

<schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: hetton nursary school

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To whom it may concern

I am writing to voice my concerns over the proposed closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery School. My daughter has attended since September and has made so much progression both academically and socially.

The Nursery is the only outstanding nursery in the area and has produced outstanding data year on year.

The nursery has a highly skilled workforce including a SENCO, teacher and nursery nurses who provide the very best experiences for the children in their care. My little girl comes out of nursery smiling everyday and is always full of stories of all the wonderful things that she has been doing.

The idea of moving the children to Hetton primary school and placing them in temporary classrooms whilst the new space is being built will be extremely unsettling for the children. This has also taken away the parents choice of where to send their children. We all have the right to send our children to a setting which we believe is the best for our children and Hetton Le Hole Nursery School is certainly that setting.

The nursery not only nurtures the children in their setting but the families within the local community who have been hit hard during the coronavirus pandemic. Closing the nursery would remove a huge support network for a community that needs it the most.

Closing this Nursery would not only be a huge loss for the local community but also for early education itself as it is an outstanding example of best practise and should be showcased as an example to all in the profession.

I hope you take on board the concerns of everyone fighting hard to save this wonderful Nursery!

Thank you for taking the time to read my email

From:

Sent: 21 March 2021 23:50

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth.Williamson@schools.Sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Objection to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School

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To whom it may concern,

I currently have a child who is in attendance at Hetton le Hole Nursery School, having attended since the age of 1 in (order for us to return to work), that is wondering why we are putting up signs in shop windows, in our cars and in windows along the street saying 'Save Our Nursery'. Having to see the look on their faces when we explain why we are doing it is heart-breaking; it's already bad enough having to explain why things have changed so much over the past year due to Covid safety restrictions, but then to put this on top of everything else seems ill timed. It's bad enough worrying about will they be safe out of the house, but now parents are having to consider where can they send them now? Will other places have the same level of understanding as our Nursery, will they take the children for the same time periods to fit around our working patterns? How much extra is it going to cost? Will our children be happy swapping from place to place so soon in their lives?

It has been known for some time now that the funding situation of the nursery has experienced difficulties, the changes the management have made to improve the efficiency of the nursery and the adoption of multiple roles among staff have shown the parents the dedication of the team there. Alongside these changes there have been several fund-raising events involving the children, sponsored events, open days and raffles. It had been explained that this was due to ongoing year on year budget cuts, something that most people have come to expect in the aftermath of central government's austerity measures. However, through campaigning for the nursery, it has come to light that there is an apparent underspend by the council in the order of £4M for Early Years Inclusion Funding and Pupil Funding budgets? Through online discussions with others campaigning for the nursery the general thought on this is why and why can this funding be not used to alleviate the situation of this and other nurseries in similar predicaments. Also, the nursery has made it clear to us that it has received no Covid-19 relief funding, despite having council employed staff unable to be furloughed. Again, we are wondering why? I assume it is taking time to distribute the funds to where it needs to go?

We then have contradictory information from the council saying the nursery has a deficit value of around £200K and does not have the capacity to clear this and in fact our nursery is in effect dragging down others financially through the funding allocation system. Then we are told that Hetton Primary School is going to have a new building and there's millions of pounds available for that?

Maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget position, as advised by the DFE. Settling for a lower rated facility seems counter productive in the long term for Hetton le Hole. Breaking a team that provides an 'outstanding' level of education to this age group would be the real quantifiable loss to Sunderland.

The proposals to reassign pupils from the nursery to Hetton Primary School seems ill-advised given the fact that there will be an asbestos removal program running at the school, starting, we are led to believe, in the existing 'nursery area' of Hetton Primary. Also, the existing nursery children there will be moved into demountable classrooms along with the children from Hetton Nursery School. Why the nursery children from Hetton Primary cannot be moved across into a bespoke building, with excellent staff and an 'outstanding' rated teaching environment while the building work is carried out is yet to be explained. It would be a much better environment for all the children, provide Hetton Nursery School with further time in a post Covid environment to implement changes to improve their financial difficulties. It would also make programming the refurbishment and new build contracts in Hetton Primary simpler and improve the situation from a risk management point of view. Ultimately it would be better for the children to be in Hetton Nursery School while this work is carried out, an outstanding bespoke environment with better capabilities than the others available. This would also give the council more time in which to allocate underspent funding, distribute relief funding for Covid-19 and also allow the council to hold off making a decision, in line with central government while parliament can establish guidance on what to do with funding Maintained Nursery Schools.

The local community have come together over this proposal to object to it, over 800 people have joined a local Facebook group to coordinate efforts, as well as general support from the community as a whole. A sizeable amount of funding has been raised within a matter of weeks to help keep this nursery going. The history of this nursery is deep within Hetton le Hole's heart, the passion displayed by objectors is clear and the community feels that they will be at a real loss if this nursery were to be closed. It has been noticed that there has been little interaction between councillor's and the community before this proposal to close was raised and that throughout the process the community has been left wanting when it comes to consultation with Sunderland Council. We've seen no evidence, nor the nursery, of alternative options to close the nursery from Sunderland Council and ideas have been raised to improve the financial situation of the nursery by the community, including increasing the nursery's hourly charge rate.

In conclusion I would like to say that closing Hetton le Hole Nursery School would be the wrong thing to do at this time and therefore I object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery. It may improve Sunderland's financial situation in the short term, but in the long run would be denying Hetton of an outstanding learning environment at grass roots level, having potential knock on consequences further down the line. It would also disrupt the children affected by the move, taken out of bespoke facilities and placed into temporary accommodations while a building site surrounds them. At best you could use Hetton le Hole Nursery during the works on Hetton Primary School to ensure a high-level educational basis for its future pupils. At least, you could grant Hetton le Hole Nursery another year to operate before reviewing. Either option would give Hetton le Hole Nursery time and a chance to turn around their financial difficulties after a year of lockdowns, backed by the local community, and keep providing outstanding nursery care and education to Hetton le Hole.

Yours Sincerely,

From:

Sent: 21 March 2021 23:58

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Herron-Le-Hole Nursery Proposed Closure

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I am writing to oppose the proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Nursery for many reasons.

Most importantly, this proposal is based solely on budget issues when the DFE guidance states that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget.

Funding has not been sufficient and the leadership of the nursery have done all that they can to maintain a healthy budget. However, this deficit could have been cleared had the council used some of the £4 million underspend from the last 3 years.

Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is graded as outstanding by Ofsted and no other provider compares to the quality of provision offered in the local area. In addition to this, the nursery has a qualified SENDco who is an early years specialist and is able to support all children who have additional needs to make outstanding progress during their time at nursery.

Nursery Schools are required to provide high quality early education, led by specialist headteachers, and delivered by qualified teachers especially in deprived areas and to put parents and families at the centre of their work. DFE guidance (November 2019) stipulates that the decision-maker should give the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools. The pre consultation received 541 responses, in which 92% of those responding did not agree with plans to close the nursery.

Funding decisions about Maintained Nursery Schools have not been made by parliament and the government is urging local authorities to hold off making decisions about their longer-term futures.

I urge you not to close this outstanding nursery because of a funding issue which can obviously be dealt with by the council using the underspends mentioned above.

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 03:00

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Fw: Hetton le hole outstanding nursery

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I object to the closure of Hetton le hole nursery school

- Dear sir/madam
- Our 3yr old son has been attending Hetton le Hole nursery since he was 12 months old. He loves been there and has made so many friends.
- He will be starting school in September 2022. If his nursery is closed it means he will have to move from his safe place which he loves, to a different setting where his friends might not go to plus he won't have his

teachers. He will be there for a year and then have to move to a new school and do it all again. This will have a major impact on his emotional well being.

- Hetton le hole nursery have helped and supported not only our son but us as parents.
- Our son was recently diagnosed with a rare brain defect and all staff and Ruth have communicated with his health professionals to put a plan in place to help with his educational and complex needs. They have gone above and beyond to help him. Another reason we are really concerned about him having to move from nursery to nursery and then school. It could take months for another nursery to learn his needs.
- Our son is learning makaton sign language at nursery. They have trained staff who are amazing and he's picking it up really good. They have also given us help sheets so we can learn at home. I've looked around and do not see any other nursery that have trained staff in this field.
- Our son will NOT be attending Hetton primary, so why would we move him to the nursery for a year when he's in a perfectly outstanding nursery now.
- Putting children into Porter cabins and asbestos class rooms is really bad for their health. Esp for nursery aged children. I worked in construction and no full well the dangers of building sites, with dust, rubble, cement etc. Which is made more dangerous with children under 4yr old been put in that environment.
- A big concern is Hetton primary is right next to a busy road with no parking and also right next to Hetton comprehensive. So you have the danger off construction workers, more busy traffic and older children, with no parking. Doesn't take much for an older child to push one of the little ones into the road.
- Why will SSC not use the underspend to help out Hetton le Hole nursery and others that are facing closure?
- Hetton le hole nursery is set back away from roads and other schools. There is also a car park.
- The nursery garden has everything. There are nature walks, trees, etc. Not paving slabs like other nurseries around. One of the reason I decided to send my child to Hetton le hole and not one of the others.
- The nursery is not just a place for our children to learn but to make friends and also the whole nursery are like family. The care you receive from them all is outstanding. We would be heartbroken if the nursery were to close and all the children had to find somewhere else. They might not even get into a nursery that is close to where we live. Hetton le nursery is practically in our doorstep.

We really hope you listen to us all and take everything into consideration. We will do anything and everything we can to keep our much loved nursery open.

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 07:59

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Closure of Hetton-le-hole nursery

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I am writing to strongly oppose the proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Nursery for many reasons.

It is evident that this proposal is based solely on budget issues when the DFE guidance states that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget. Funding from the government and LA has not been sufficient and the leadership of the nursery have done all that they can to maintain a healthy budget. However, the council could have used a tiny proportion of the £4 million underspend from the last 3 years to remove the deficit and provide the support required.

There is no comparison to the quality of provision offered at Hetton-le-Hole Nursery in the local area. The nursery is graded as outstanding by Ofsted. In addition to this, the nursery has a qualified SENDco who is an early years specialist and is able to support all children who have additional needs to make outstanding progress during their time at nursery.

Funding decisions about Maintained Nursery Schools have not been made by parliament and the government is urging local authorities to hold off making decisions about their longer-term futures.

I am strongly against the proposed closure of this nursery.

Monday 22nd March 2021

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 08:59

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton nursery school

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole because:

1. Sunderland City Council has failed to comply with the Department of Education Guidance of November 2019 of giving the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools.
2. Sunderland City Council has permitted and encouraged unfair competition by allowing numerous private nurseries to undercut state schools.
3. Sunderland City Council has been derelict in its duties by not actively involving and discussing with the Nursery, its governors, residents, families and Hetton Town Council possible ways to overcome the difficulties of falling roll numbers.

4. Sunderland City Council has not provided any Covid-19 relief funds to the Nursery despite having received many millions from central government.
5. Sunderland City Council has failed to provide additional funding for this Nursery and other maintained nurseries to clear any outstanding deficits despite having an underspend of over £4 million.
6. The budget forecast produced by Sunderland City Council to 'justify' the closure is inaccurate and forecast additional pupils will eliminate the projected deficit.
7. Sunderland City Council deliberately distorted facts relating to the uplift given to the Nursery as the reason for at least one other nursery school going into deficit.
8. Sunderland City Council will be putting the Health and Safety of young and vulnerable children from the Nursery at risk by transferring them to temporary demountable classrooms /asbestos ridden reconfigured building for a period of up to 3 years.
9. Sunderland City Council's Cabinet took the decision to move forward to a statutory consultation 5 days before the pre consultation closed and this did not permit all responses to be considered.

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 09:29

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Objection to the closure of Ofsted "OUTSTANDING" nursery

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to object to the proposed closure of Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School, which has served the community of Hetton-Le-Hole for generations. The basis of my objection is this: Ofsted have rated it as "OUTSTANDING" and it is well placed geographically to serve the community.

To divert a much larger sum of money to establish a new nursery 'out of area' to me is nonsensical given the undoubted financial pressures we all find ourselves facing.

I trust that you will carefully consider all factors informing your decision and listen respectfully to all points raised by the local community.

Yours Sincerely,

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 09:37

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton Le Hole Outstanding Nursery

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On Friday, March 19, 2021, 10:20 am, joyce colling <joycecolling22@sky.com> wrote:

- Dear sir/madam
- Our 3yr old grandson has been attending Hetton le Hole nursery since he was 12 months old. He loves been there and has made so many friends.
- He will be starting school in September 2022. If his nursery is closed it means he will have to move from his safe place which he loves, to a different setting where his friends might not go to plus he won't have his teachers. He will be there for a year and then have to move to a new school and do it all again. This will have a major impact on his emotional well being.
- Hetton le hole nursery have helped and supported not only our grandson but us as grandparents.
- Our grandson was recently diagnosed with a rare brain defect and all staff and Ruth have communicated with his health professionals to put a plan in place to help with his educational and complex needs. They have gone above and beyond to help him. Another reason we are really concerned about him having to move from nursery to nursery and then school. It could take months for another nursery to learn his needs.
- Our grandson is learning makaton sign language at nursery. They have trained staff who are amazing and he's picking it up really good. They have also given us help sheets so we can learn at home. I've looked around and do not see any other nursery that have trained staff in this field.
- Our grandson will NOT be attending Hetton primary, so why would we move him to the nursery for a year when he's in a perfectly outstanding nursery now.
- Putting children into Porter cabins and asbestos class rooms is really bad for their health. Especially for nursery aged children. My daughter worked in construction and knows full well the dangers of building sites, with dust, rubble, cement etc. Which is made more dangerous with children under 4yr old been put in that environment.
- A big concern is Hetton primary is right next to a busy road with no parking and also right next to Hetton comprehensive. So you have the danger off construction workers, more busy traffic and older children, with no parking. Doesn't take much for an older child to push one of the little ones into the road.
- Why will SSC not use the underspend to help out Hetton le Hole nursery and others that are facing closure?
- Hetton le hole nursery is set back away from roads and other schools. There is also a car park.
- The nursery garden has everything. There are nature walks, trees, etc. Not paving slabs like other nurseries around. One of the reason My daughter decided to send my grandson to Hetton le hole and not one of the others.

- The nursery is not just a place for our children to learn but to make friends and also the whole nursery are like family. The care you receive from them all is outstanding. We would be heartbroken if the nursery were to close and all the children had to find somewhere else. They might not even get into a nursery that is close to where we live. Hetton le nursery is practically in our doorstep.

We really hope you listen to us all and take everything into consideration. We will do anything and everything we can to keep our much loved nursery open.

From: >

Sent: 22 March 2021 10:16

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth Williamson <Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School Consultation

I wish to reject the proposal to close Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School.

As a Parent, my Son has attended the nursery from 9 months old I have seen first-hand the impact and success it has had in developing its pupils who attend. It would be a huge disruption to both my Son and other children who attend the nursery to have to move settings and will cause a significant amount of unnecessary distress. The Covid-19 pandemic has caused a significant amount of unrest in our children already. The Government forced closure of all education provisions in March of 2020 lead to upset and confusion in my Son when he was finally able to return to nursery, this was minimised by the familiarity and comfort that he has with his current setting.

Imagine the level of upset and confusion in September when he is forced to move to another provision and start all over again making new peers and building relationships with the staff only to move on again into primary school in the September of 2022.

How is it justifiable to close a nursery while children are still progressing through their education? Surely a phased closing (if a closure is the decision made) would be more beneficial to all of the children involved, thus allowing them to finish their educational journey in one setting.

A closure of such a fantastic setting will come at a disadvantage to future generations, our second child was to be enrolled in this nursery from 9 months of age. This is now another full time place that will be lost by the local authority as we seek an alternative provision outside the area as we believe the care and expertise provided by Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery is the best of any provider in the surrounding area.

Moving on to the timing of the closure, it makes no logical sense whatsoever why the proposal to close would be from September 2021, the alternative provision (Hetton Le Hole Primary School as stated in your proposal) is not due to have its building completed until 2022. Surely now that this has been given the green light, the sensible option would be to delay the closure of Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School (if it is to close) until after its completion?

What are the associated costs of erecting demountable classrooms and modifying an asbestos ridden building to create a temporary solution for an increased roll at the current Hetton-Le-Hole primary school?? (We will not worry about the potential health implications involved in altering a building laced with asbestos as this consultation to close appears to be based solely as a financial decision). This cost has never been disclosed, if it is more than the projected in year deficit of Hetton-Le-Hole nursery school then the closure in September 2021 makes very little sense.

It has already been highlighted that the Nursery can run in the year 2021/22 with a balanced budget based on an increase in the hourly rate by 50p. This supported by the fundraising efforts of parents (Currently over £3,600 raised) means that a balanced budget or even a small surplus in 2021/22 outweighs the cost of demountable classrooms and modifications to the current Hetton Primary site prior to its demolition... "But the Nursery still has a substantial deficit" will be the response from Mr Rowan et Al.

This is a SUNK COST. If you close the Nursery in September 2021 there is no way of recovering this deficit if the nursery closes. Allowing the Nursery to remain open even if temporarily for an additional twelve months will show that the Nursery can run in budget or at a small surplus.

My next point I would like to raise surrounds the financial questions that are yet to be answered in regards to early years funding by central government and the allocation of funds provided by Sunderland City Council. It has been made clear by central government that the closure of maintained nursery schools should be delayed wherever possible until the reassessment of early years funding has been completed, (this was due to be done in 2020 but has since been put back until 2021). How can the proposal be allowed to continue with the potential for increased funding allocated from central government? I would also like to highlight the c£4000,000 underspend by Sunderland City Council in the areas of early years inclusion funding and pupil funding budgets over the last three years. Where has this money gone? And why is it being taken away from early years provisions including Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School? These figures were obtained by a freedom of information request and on their own, notwithstanding any other arguments should be grounds to HALT the closure process until this is fully investigated. You cannot allow a vital resource in early years education to close, as well as have others across the city in a deficit when such an underspend has been allowed to happen. Where is this money and why is it not being used to help maintained nursery schools who have accrued a deficit???? This SIGNIFICANT underspend is now having a direct impact on the lives of the children in Hetton-Le-Hole and indeed other parts of the locality.

In conclusion, the decision to close Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School is one that is immoral. The children, staff, and parents, have suffered enough disruption at the hands of the Covid-19 pandemic. The decision to close Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School should be rejected outright at this current time based on the welfare of our young people. Immorality however, is something that doesn't seem to register with the majority of councillors and those who make such decisions. So in terms that can be understood, Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery should be allowed to remain open and this proposal should be rejected, at the very least for a period no shorter than twelve months to allow completion of the alternative provision and for a full enquiry to be held into the significant underspend in Early Years Inclusion and Pupil funding budgets.

Regards,

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 10:53

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton Nursery closure

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I have family that attend this nursery and plan to have more children. This OUTSTANDING nursery and staff are a much-needed service NOW and in the future (consider the new builds happening and that is been planned.) The trauma (I don't use the word lightly) of the attempted closure has put on parents and staff is palpable and you should be ashamed of yourselves at a time when supporting our communities should be of utmost priority to the council. LOOK for SOLUTIONS. HEAR the voice of our communities who are shouting up for our precious bairns.

Plans to put our children of any age into demountable classrooms (portacabins) is quite frankly shocking in this day and age.

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 10:52

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>;

ruth.williams@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton Nursery Closure - Object

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I am emailing to formally object to the closure of Hetton Nursery.

The council need to re-think their decision in closing this fabulous 5 star rated OFSTED establishment.

The children at Hetton Nursey are all settled and, in my opinion, moving them to prefabs will not only unsettle but disrupted their routine.

Hetton Nursey provides comfortable surroundings and the children are excelling and growing here.

The closure is unnecessary and I do not agree to it all.

Our children need stability and that is what Hetton Nursery provides.

Traffic chaos in the surrounding area is a huge concern and increased numbers will inevitably cause safety issues for children, parents and residents.

PLEASE DO NOT GO AGAINST THE COMMUNITY WISHES AND LET HETTON NURSERY REMAIN OPEN.

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 11:03

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Proposed Closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery

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I do not think this is the correct action to take to close Hetton le Hole Nursery.

The children have suffered enough as a result of the Covid pandemic without the upheaval of going to another Nursery.

More parents are working longer hours than ever before, it is vital that you know your child is in an environment that supports them emotionally and mentally.

Hetton Nursery has been established since 1945, both my children attended the Nursery and it gave them a great foundation in their early stages of their education.

I have been made aware that the new build will NOT be ready until 2022, yet the council are more than happy to close Hetton Nursery where the children are happy and content, before the new build is even ready, where is the logic in that.

It seems to me that the council are not supporting those families who have supported them over the years. I am aware that there is a lot of red tape, money issues etc, but you know what they say where there is a will there is a way, people will support each other.

I have nothing against new builds what I do not understand is that Hetton Nursery is a well established Nursery, it has been part of Hetton for the last 76 years, yet you can spend millions on a new build but not support Hetton Nursery.

The community/Nursery could come up with a financial support plan but it would help if you gave them time to do so, let then show you what can be achieved if financial changes were to be made.

Due to the Covid pandemic nearly all business have suffered a financial loss, the Nursery being one of them. It has been implied that not enough children are attending the Nursey another reason why there is a short fall in income.

Yet you intend to open a new build costing millions, is this Nursey going to have a sort fall of children also.

When you make your decision please take into account the children, this last year has not been easy for them or their parents. If you go ahead and close Hetton Nursery the impact on the children will be unbearable, at the moment going to Hetton Nursery is the only stability they have outside of their home environment.

Please support the community and the children of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery.

Yours faithfully.

From: Houghton-le-Spring Residents Group < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 11:15

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: proposed Hetton Nursery closure

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Many of our almost 7,000 members have or have had family attend this Ofsted rated "Outstanding Nursery". The messages that come through asking for support tell of an unmatched education for children of all abilities. Parents continue to choose this nursery as they have so much belief in the system and staff. Have the newbuilds or proposed new developments been taken into account. Surely a solution could be worked towards keeping this nursery. Reports of underfunding of SEN and early years education need to be looked at before a decision is made?

The investment in Hetton School is fantastic but it is really concerning that asbestos is a problem and with children having to be educated in demountable classrooms (portacabins) the new school may have some issues going forward.

At a time when our parents/children/keyworkers should have received as much support as possible from Sunderland Council it has been noted by many that the stress and anxiety of this situation has been disgraceful. Working WITH the nursery/parents/community surely solutions other than closure could be sought at this present time.

Yours sincerely

Houghton le Spring Residents Group

From:

Sent: 22 March 2021 11:19

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Objection To The Closure of Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Dear Members of the Board for School Organisation,

I write to object to the closure of Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School.

I am shocked, saddened and appalled that Sunderland City Council propose to close the only Ofsted rated Outstanding Nursery in Hetton. My daughter is a current attendee of Hetton Le Hole Nursery, prior was my elder son, and going back in time, were myself and sister. The nursery is of sentimental value to my family, and so many, as we enjoy how so many Hetton families and families who travel in from neighbouring areas, simply love the nursery and have done since 1945. This is for the care and attention our little ones thrive in. Equally families appreciate, are thankful for, and do not forget the educational excellence, knowledgeable skill and expertise, and dedication that is provided at this Ofsted Outstanding establishment. SEN provision is of excellence, as you are aware. It was paramount in giving my son, who was diagnosed with Autism, whilst at Nursery, the best start to Education. Headmistress and team secured an Educational Health Care Plan ready for my son going to school and the best care and support for SEN was provided throughout. I believe that this attention at Early Years can depict what is needed later on i.e. whether a child can be supported and manage in mainstream school or if they need a place in an SEN school. My son started maintained primary school with the best possible early years foundation and he continues to flourish. From starting nursery school age 3 and unable to verbalise, I don't believe that his progress would have been so significant if he had not attended Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery school. Progression was simply miraculous.

I could have sent my youngest child to the nursery based at my elder child's school, but I chose to do two drop offs instead as I wanted my youngest to attend Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School.

I am shocked that Sunderland City Councillors have heard but not listened to 500 plus objections to closing Hetton le hole Nursery School and have pushed to the more formal stages of proposed closure. I trusted that councillors are in a position because of their willingness to listen to Sunderland residents and to

put first the needs of the most important residents our children. Unfortunately recent actions are not demonstrative of this. SCC have not liaised with the public correctly in line breaking their own proposal criteria, closing the pre-consultation five days early, thus not allowing the public the allocated time to have their voice heard. Instead a decision to push forward to formal consultation was made. 92 per cent of responses received were objecting the closure of the nursery. I am failing to understand how Sunderland can raise a proposal then ignore 500 negative responses and say well we are going to do it anyway. In fact SCC has not adequately liaised with stakeholders overall. SCC has not actively discussed proposal with nursery, their governors, families/residents of Hetton and Hetton Town Council, to look at ways to address falling roll numbers also.

All of this is against DfE Guidance which states that maintained nursery schools should not be closed due solely to financial deficit. DfE guidance states that concerning closure proposals the greatest weight for the decision should focus on the responses of stakeholders. DfE guidance also says that in relation to closing maintained schools decision makers/proposers should 'adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools.' It states that an equal alternative should be provided and that the alternative should be more convenient and accessible for local parents. Neither of these are met as porta cabins at the proposed replacement at Hetton Primary, a long walk away for little legs is no comparison to a centrally located beautiful setting in a nature garden. There are no other OFSTED Outstanding provisions in Hetton. The baby room will be lost as there will be no baby room at the new Hetton Primary Nursery. Safety Concerns are raised over traffic at the new Hetton Primary setting and concerns over the large amount of asbestos in the primary building set to be demolished whilst children are in porta cabins nearby.

It has been noted by SCC that the nursery deficit is not due to mismanagement from staff but from the funding from central government. I notice that each opposition is met with, paraphrase 'but nursery is in financial deficit.' I want to know why Sunderland Council cannot pay off the deficit? It has come to my attention that SCC have an underspend of £4 million! Many times over could this deficit (a comparably small £140,000) have been paid off, how can our children not be worth the spend? The Nursery has incurred losses due to covid of £76,000 and still the in year closing deficit was £58,499, and the nursery could not even furlough staff. Still despite council receiving millions from

central government the nursery did not receive any Covid Relief funds! To propose closure during a pandemic is utterly appalling. The Government have advised that LA's should hold off on any closures as decisions on future funding have not yet been finalised. Furthermore, the nursery is not the only maintained nursery in a financially vulnerable position.

The children have had enough to contend with, without it been suggested that they move from their much loved safe haven to porta cabins up at Hetton Primary. A long walk for little legs and porta cabins are not good enough! It is unlikely that any parents will chose to send their child to porta cabins, and are more likely to use the private nursery in the centre of Hetton. Key workers including staff and parents need support during this pandemic not to deal with the threat of losing their jobs or their childcare provision. Private nurseries have no requirements for Head Teacher, Teacher, SENCO, and are not subject to the rigorous inspections from OFSTED that maintained nurseries are subject to.

The Local Authority have encouraged competition for Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School by allowing a private nursery to open in very close proximity to it. SCC has encouraged competition from a number of private nurseries allowing them to undercut maintained schools, which is unfair.

Parents have formulated a financial plan to improve nursery position however have not been given opportunity to share it with the council. Parents have set up a go fund me page which has raised in excess of £3000 in only a few weeks. An online petition has 1679 signatures, in support of saving Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School.

I fail to understand why the opinion of SCC is this nursery is in financial deficit and closure is appropriate. This is your maintained nursery school; the Local Authority thinking and viewpoint is all wrong. I want members of the board to think about if their child attended, their grandchild, their niece, nephew, any child in their family and think about how they would feel if a child they cared for attended, loved and flourished in an Ofsted Outstanding Nursery Setting with staff care, dedication, skill, knowledge and expertise second to none, what would your opinion be of the LA who proposes such a loss. I then ask you to overturn your thinking from proposed closure, to this is our Local Authority Maintained Nursery; it is a fantastic early years setting that we are so proud of. I urge you to applaud the staff for being ofsted outstanding and providing a

service that that the residents of Hetton love and show appreciation by revoking your proposal to close. I urge you to support the asset, preserve it, keep it going. Do this for the children of Hetton and surrounding areas. It is not a robotic paper exercise where by the figures show the nursery is financially unsustainable. We are taking real, wonderful little children who want to stay at their nursery, can't they have that? Staff who actually love their job and are dedicated in everything they do every day for the children, cant they carry on? A real town, Hetton, who has shown in droves that they want to keep the nursery. Look at the proposal as a person with a heart, not as a robot with a business transaction in mind. Local Authority should be relied upon to provide what the people need, and listen to what the people want and parental choice.

It would be a sad day in Hetton-Le-Hole if you remove the nursery.

Yours Sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 21 March 2021 07:26 PM

To: Laura Robson <Laura.Robson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject:

Hi Laura

I firmly agree to fight against the decisions by Sunderland Council to try too close the Nursery. This Nursery is an important part of our Hetton history having been a good stand to many children who are attending their currently and the many others over the previous years. It doesnt only support the Children but also the many parents who rely on this service. Totally can't understand the need to close a good standard nursery when it is helping to create placements for children especially now when we have new families moving into our area through the many new Housing thay are currently been erected and obviously the many new babies arriving that parents will need to rely on in the future. Every placement is valuable and worth fighting for. We can't let Sunderland Council win!

Please use this email to pass on to whoever you need to support your fight

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 12:04

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton nursery

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To whom it may concern.

I strongly object to the closure Hetton nursery.
I myself was a pupil back in the 60s.
The nursery has been classified as outstanding.
The staff and head have the finances around.
You claim it is running at a loss. Yet SCC have had an under spend of £4.1 million over the last 4 years in the education department/nurseries.
Other nurseries are running at a deficit.
SCC have had extra monies given to provide help schools /nurseries because of COVID.
Why has this not been allocated?
These are just a few things where the magnificent staff /pupils/ building can be helped.
You also state that building is going to be used for other educational programs. At a loss / deficit???
To many unanswered questions.
False-claims.
To give the Hetton Nursery a bad reputation!
Then there is the new School. So many unanswered questions about safety of the children who will attend there.
Roads, access ,parking .
Asbestos, mixed toilets!

Save Hetton Nursery !!

Regards,

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 12:18

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Fwd: Hetton-le-Hole Nursery

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-----Original Message-----

From: >

To: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk <ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk>

CC: schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Sent: Mon, 22 Mar 2021 12:12

Subject: Hetton-le-Hole Nursery

Dear Sir/Madam

My granddaughter has just started to attend Hetton-le-Hole nursery. This established nursery was chosen because of its outstanding Ofsted report and the qualified and experienced staff. The facilities it provides especially the outside space is important as a lot of children do not have that luxury at home.

The location of the nursery is central to the area and a number of primary schools, and as my daughter in law works shifts for the NHS it is easier for someone to collect my granddaughter if her parents are not available. Key workers do not need the added stress of worrying about their children's upheaval if the nursery is closed and their children just moved into Hetton nursery without

any consultation. My son and his partner wanted my granddaughter to go to Hetton Lyons primary school as it has a better Ofsted report.

I cannot see the point of housing the children in temporary accommodation, with building work going on around them, when there is accommodation available in a perfectly good established nursery. Surely the cost of temporary accommodation would out way the nursery deficit. Also not all staff would be re employed at Hetton nursery so a lot of expertise would be lost.

There is also a lot more new housing estates being built in the area so more nurseries would be needed to accommodate new families.

As far as I can see the real reason for the closure is financial. I think alternative arrangements should be discussed with the school and governors with a plan of action. Surely this is not the only school with a deficit. There is also the unfair competition from the private nursery which was allowed to open less than 0.5 miles from this nursery and Hetton nursery.

The performance of the nursery has always had a top Ofsted report and the highly skilled staff are always willing to go above and beyond to support the children and families in the area.

Yours sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 14:28

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection to the closure of hetton nursery school

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Dear Alan

I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole because:

1. Sunderland City Council has failed to comply with the Department of Education Guidance of November 2019 of giving the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools.
2. Sunderland City Council has permitted and encouraged unfair competition by allowing numerous private nurseries to undercut state schools.
3. Sunderland City Council has been derelict in its duties by not actively involving and discussing with the Nursery, its governors, residents, families and Hetton Town Council possible ways to overcome the difficulties of falling roll numbers.
4. Sunderland City Council has not provided any Covid-19 relief funds to the Nursery despite having received many millions from central government.
5. Sunderland City Council has failed to provide additional funding for this Nursery and other maintained nurseries to clear any outstanding deficits despite having an underspend of over £4 million.

6. The budget forecast produced by Sunderland City Council to 'justify' the closure is inaccurate and forecast additional pupils will eliminate the projected deficit.
7. Sunderland City Council deliberately distorted facts relating to the uplift given to the Nursery as the reason for at least one other nursery school going into deficit.
8. Sunderland City Council will be putting the Health and Safety of young and vulnerable children from the Nursery at risk by transferring them to temporary demountable classrooms /asbestos ridden reconfigured building for a period of up to 3 years.
9. Sunderland City Council's Cabinet took the decision to move forward to a statutory consultation 5 days before the pre consultation closed and this did not permit all responses to be considered.

The nursery has been part of the community for a number of years as a local outstanding nursery and has a large garden which is used on a daily basis which isn't near any main roads. You want to close this and open a new facility at hetton lyons which is on a main road and links into a school which has questionable teaching practices and does not focus on SEN children. Disgrace.

Date 22nd March 2021

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 14:30

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: hetton le hole nursery closure

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i would like to object to the closure of hetton le hole nursery school. I am one of the many (over 6000) people who signed a petition to overturn this decision.

My granddaughter attended this nursery and the provision has been second to none. Our other grand daughter is due to start in september too- she should have the right to follow in her sisters footsteps. There is no equal provision within hetton.

The nursery has been part of the community for over 75 years and many of our family members have attended form all generations. The building itself offers a beautiful outside learning environment.

Financially, the nursery should be given a fair opportunity to stay open, through fundraising, advertising and a price increase. alongside this, the deficit is inherited and should be wiped. If central government funding isn't adequate, use some of the 4million underspend from early years.

regards

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 14:34

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>
Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk
Subject: Hetton-le-Hole Nursery closure objection.

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I am writing to object to the closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School. As a parent of a 3 year old child currently at the nursery, I am deeply concerned about how the potential upheaval to a new nursery could affect his emotional well-being as well as the unnecessary stress it will cause myself. My child has attended this nursery since he was 16 months old and I expected him see out his full pre-school education here, which I can only describe as an outstanding environment with amazing staff. I have friends with new babies in the area who also planned to send their children to this nursery after hearing positive reviews, now being left disappointed that this may no longer be an option to them. Please save my sons outstanding nursery and give other children the opportunity to experience the best start to their education in Hetton-le-Hole.

Kind regards,

From: < >
Sent: 22 March 2021 14:56
To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>
Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk
Subject: Objection to the closure of Hetton Nursery School.

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

Good afternoon,

I strongly object to the proposal of the closure of Hetton Nursery School for the following reasons...

- My 3yr old son (with special needs) has been attending Hetton le Hole nursery since he was 12 months old. He loves being there and has made so many friends.
-
- If you close his nursery it means he will have to move from his safe place, which he loves, to a different setting where his friends might not go to, plus he won't have his teachers and their support. He will be there for a year and then have to move to a new school again. This will have a major impact on his emotional well being!
-
- Hetton le hole nursery have helped and supported not only my son but us as parents.
-

- My son was recently diagnosed with a rare brain defect. All of the staff and Ruth have communicated with his health professionals to put a plan in place to help with his educational and complex needs. They have gone above and beyond to help him. They have been amazing! All of the staff have gone far beyond my expectations for my sons care and needs. I really don't feel he would get the same attention or level of care at another nursery.
-
- My son will NOT be attending your proposed Hetton primary new nursery school! Why would we move him to that nursery for a year when he's already in an OFFSTED OUTSTANDING Nursery!?
-
- Putting children into Porter cabins and asbestos class rooms is a shocking suggestion for anyone never mind children! This could have very serious implications for their health, especially nursery aged children. Which is made more dangerous with children under 4yr old being put into that environment.
-
- A big concern is Hetton primary is right on a busy road with no parking and also right next to Hetton comprehensive. There have been two accidents there in the past couple of weeks.
-
- If your proposal goes ahead, there will be the added danger off construction traffic and workers, more busy traffic and older children. It doesn't take much for an older child to accidentally push one of the little ones over and/or into the road.
-
- Why will SCC not use the underspending that's left from the governments money that was provided to fund nursery schools and help out Hetton le Hole nursery and others that are facing closure?
-
- Hetton le hole nursery is set back away from roads and other schools. There is also a car park.
-
- The nursery garden has everything. There are nature walks, trees, etc. Not paving slabs like other nurseries in the area. This is one of the reasons I decided to send my child to Hetton le hole and not one of the others.

Thank you.

Regards

-----Original Message-----

From: <>

Sent: 22 March 2021 15:39

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Objection to closure

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I object to the closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery School.

Sent from my iPhone

From: <>

Sent: 22 March 2021 16:03

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le Hole Nursery

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Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to object to the proposal to close the Hetton-Le-Hole nursery school attended by our grandchild.

To close an outstanding early learning and development centre seems like at best shortsighted by the City Council.

This nursery highly this is due to the qualified and specialist staff working and nurturing the children that attend there to provide a good foundation for the future of the children. What is the future for these dedicated staff? and how will the children displaced adapt?

Comparisons cannot be made on financial accountability when these types of nursery are being judged against private run nurseries especially when early learning budgets are cut and the necessary investment not given .

If the decision is purely based upon financial information around a deficit this seems to go against DFE guidance.

The purpose of maintained nurseries was to improve life chances for young people, In a year of great social upheaval and financial hurt for families the stability of providing

good solid foundations to our future generations to develop and succeed is of paramount performance.

I hope that the Council look further into parents, community and staff objections but most of all the needs and effect this decision would have on the children themselves.

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 16:34

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: HETTON-LE-HOLE NURSERY OBJECTION

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I would like to register my objection tin against the proposed closure of Hetton nursery school on the following grounds.

1. My granddaughter attended this nursery & moved onto school in September 2020.

She absolutely loved going there & has come away a very happy, confident little girl, ahead of her years academically. This has all been helped by the excellent standards the nursery achieve & the fantastic effort they all out into treating each child as an individual ,all with different needs.

2. My daughter has another child who she wants to attend the same nursery from

September this year. She took a lot of time investigating different nursery provision before choosing to send her other daughter to this particular one.

In fact by choosing it, she has to travel each day a few miles, but still decided to do so, as it's the only nursery in the area that was rated as outstanding by

Ofsted. The other choices were nowhere near as good in her opinion . The

Staff were extremely helpful & understanding at Hetton from the minute she met them & my granddaughter was given a very warm welcome , which

put both my daughter & granddaughter at ease straight away. I'm sure you are aware that every parent worries about handing over responsibility to others to take care of their child , especially if those people are new to their child.

However, the staff at Hetton showed themselves to all be very caring & very

soon got to know my grandchild & she took to them all straight away.

3. With the last year been taken over by Covid & the myriad of uncertainties that's brought about, the one thing parents really don't need is to have even more uncertainty hanging over them as they worry about having to either change their children's nursery to a new place ,mid way through their time at nursery, or to have to be extremely disappointed at having to look at sending their up & coming offspring to a new ,as yet not tested nursery. Hetton nursery has been in existence since around 1945 & has provided the many children who've gone there over last 75 years the great start in life they deserve.

4. The parents feel very strongly about the proposed closure & have organised raffles etc & have raised £3,668 pounds from this in last month to help reduce financial deficit . This surely proves the strength of their feeling on situation. Obviously they can't raise enough to pay off whole amount of deficit, but are willing to get involved with fundraising ideas to raise more money & the fees could be raised by 50 pence per hour which would greatly help with this. The deficit is not in any way the fault of the nursery itself , it's partly an inherited one & due to underfunding by government for maintained nursery provision, as I understand it. Why not keep the nursery going & promote it as a feeder nursery before children leave to go into this new school you're spending millions of pounds building. That way you could scrap the idea for building the new nursery part, which would save spending a few million on that. It would be far, far, more cost,effective to write off the deficit Hetton nursery has, & allow them to continue with a fresh start thus saving yourselves the vast cost of building new nursery as part of new school. The staff would all be able to keep their jobs, the children would be able to not be uprooted & thus keep their stability & parents would be able to rest in peace without worrying about making changes,that will affect both themsekves & their children.

Yours sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 16:42

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth Williamson <Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection to proposed closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you regarding the consultations about the potential closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School, and my concerns about this proposed closure.

My little boy started at Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School just before he turned 1 in 2017 as I returned back to work full time. We had looked at many nurseries before we chose Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School and none of them had been as welcoming, friendly, kind and professional as Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School. I remember the relief of having found this wonderful nursery; their guidance, support and professionalism with which they welcomed us and their warmth with which they run the nursery and look after our kids was and is still exceptional and back then and now making my return to work and continue working as smooth as it can possibly be. The cherry on the top was that this was the only outstanding nursery in the area, and it showed back then and still shows now every day how well deserved this outstanding Ofsted rating is. My little boy experienced delays in his motoric skills and the additional to his needs tailored support and expertise of the nursery staff has been amazing and helped him to develop amazingly.

Throughout the pandemic our kids have been through so many transitions and yet the nursery has been their secure place, staff going above and beyond to look after them and provide stability, continue their teaching and give warmth and care. I was in utter shock and disbelief when I heard that it might have to close. How any council could decide to close one of its best nurseries during a pandemic (as far as I believe Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is the only early years provision graded as outstanding by Ofsted and no other setting currently can match their standard and care provided), when most businesses and institutions are struggling, instead of trying their utmost to protect this gem of a nursery that has been within our community for more than 45 years; one would hope that the goal would always been to go above and beyond to preserve the rare educational settings that are outstanding and show that our kids education is valued, hence our collective utter shock that closure was even considered during such troubling times.

Our children have suffered immensely during this pandemic, and staff have and are experiencing difficult challenges themselves, but never letting this influence and overshadow their care for our kids and they should not have to worry about the council closing their nursery while all of this is going on. It is even more surprising to me, that as so many businesses get support from their councils and the government that the council has not provided any Covid-19 relief funds despite government having issued very large sums. Yes, the nursery (as have most businesses and educational settings during this pandemic) has incurred a £76,000 Covid-loss this year, but this is partly due to not being able to furlough staff as they are council employees, creating an unfairness compared to private nurseries.

To make matters worse is that if Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School was to be closed, there is not even a comparable suitable learning environment for our kids ready yet. It seems like ill timing taking kids out of an outstanding, safe and secure learning environment moving them into demountable classrooms, to a site that is in construction, with an asbestos removal site next door, the unpleasant disruptive construction noise (especially for babies and toddlers, but I understand there is not even any baby provision and this is lost completely) and the impacts on outside play areas, and with the new build not ready for at least 2022 (if there are no delays- also not a given during an ongoing pandemic), seems illogical. In addition, the costing of temporary classrooms would go a long way in aiding Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School and would keep our children in their safe and appropriate learning environment; making use of an already established outstanding nursery with excellent staff and giving the nursery time to balance the budget during these difficult pandemic circumstances. Especially since it has been acknowledged in many meeting notes that the financial vulnerability of the nursery is not due to mismanagement of funds but due to the methodology behind the funding formula and the unavoidable costs associated with a Maintained Nursery School.

Adding to this is that no funding decisions about Maintained Nursery Schools have been made yet by parliament and the government and I believe they are even urging local authorities to hold off making decisions about their longer-term futures.

The council argues that Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School has a deficit of up to £200,000 that they do not have the capacity to clear and they cannot support financially moving forward, but instead of helping, they are willing to spend large sums into transitioning kids over into a not yet existing facility and having to spend even more in setting up demountable classrooms; plus even more illogical not trying to save this outstanding nursery during a pandemic, when there are significant underspends for inclusion early years inclusion of more than £4 million in the last 3 years and going against DFE guidance which states that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget position.

Our kids wellbeing, education and safety, learning and playing in secure safe, construction free environments, keeping them mentally healthy and not causing even further transitions and instability, (all for a deficit that is proportionally so much smaller than other costs in transitioning them and unallocated funds that could solve the situation), is important to all of us; the impact of this proposed transition is extremely stressful and serious to all of us. Plus, settling for a lower rated facility seems counterproductive in the long term for Hetton-le-Hole.

The nursery does not expect a full relief and the community has pulled together to help funding the nursery through events, new financial proposals which have been put together with parents to improve the nursery's situation and the nurseries continued effort to streamline its efficiency are all ongoing initiatives to aid the nurseries position and situation and should be taken into consideration. The local community has stepped up and showed its support for Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School. The community strongly feels that this closure consideration comes at the most inappropriate time, and the nursery should be given more time to try and resolve the deficit under non-pandemic circumstances. The community is rallying, the nursery is at their heart, and we know what a gem it is, and how it keeps our children safe, supported and happy, but I wonder if this has been heard by the council?

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 16:52

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>
Cc: Ruth.williamson@schools.Sunderland.gov.uk
Subject: Hetton Nursery

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

I strongly object to the closure of Hetton Nursery.
I personally think it's a disgrace at how little our local councillors care about this or anything for that matter about our area. Seems they're only interested in anything they benefit from. Disgusting.

From: < >
Sent: 22 March 2021 17:00
To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>
Cc: Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk
Subject: Objection to the closure of Hetton le hole nursery school

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to formally object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School. My granddaughter currently attends this nursery school and her current needs are met exceptionally well there. Due to the variety of needs she has, which now include social and emotional needs, due to the ongoing pandemic I don't believe another setting can meet her needs as well as Hetton le Hole Nursery School.

Due to covid my daughter, a key worker, has worked throughout the pandemic and as a result my granddaughter has attended nursery as usual. This has allowed her to continue to socialise in a safe environment with familiar peers and staff and this has allowed her to continue to develop and socialise during this pandemic. I fear how bad the effects of the pandemic would have been on my granddaughter if she hadn't been able to continue attending nursery with such skilled staff and surrounded by familiarity. This fear stems from my observations of my granddaughter when she goes out for her daily walks or when she goes to the shops where unfamiliar people surround her. She is now extremely shy and when she becomes upset and overwhelmed by being in close proximity to others she clings to my daughter or myself and cries excessively as she is unable to cope and this can result in her vomiting if she becomes too overwhelmed. As you can imagine this is really upsetting to observe. Also when professionals have visited her in nursery she has shut down and refused to eat, speak or move and therefore consistency in her educational setting is very much needed. The impact on my granddaughters emotional well being, as well as her developmental delays have been compounded by the pandemic and familiarity with adults she knows in an environment she knows is what is needed, not additional upheaval. She will not cope emotionally with a change in nursery and therefore closing the nursery will severely impact her emotionally and in terms of her progress and this will disadvantage her.

Hetton le Hole Nursery School is the only outstanding nursery school in Hetton le Hole, where I live. The childcare which my granddaughter attends at the school is outstanding and there is no other outstanding nursery in Hetton. Children like my granddaughter already working at a disadvantage due to the pandemic should be given the very best start in life and therefore an outstanding nursery should not be closed and an alternative solution involving discussions with the nursery and stakeholders is needed.

The nursery is situated close to where I live - I do collections of my grand daughter from the nursery on the days she attends and by closing the nursery you would be effectively making my daily collections lengthier as the local nurseries are not outstanding, this would impact on my health and also my daughter financially as no other local nursery offers the same outstanding service and same flexibility in their service locally.

I urge the council to reconsider this decision

Yours sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 17:49

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: objection to closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a grandparent of a child who is currently attending Hetton Le Hole Nursery school. Also a parent of 5 children that have all also attended the nursery from baby room through to 4 years old.

I would like to say that I am outraged by the decision to close the nursery school. This is the only nursery school that is outstanding and always has been in the area. I can only begin to say that all my children have excelled in their education. I feel this is from the start they had from their time at Hetton and the staff that has provided them with not only teaching but support from the highly skilled, kind and caring staff in all rooms of the nursery and childcare.

Been a parent one of the hardest things is leaving your child with a stranger, however I felt from the moment that I visited the nursery that I was doing the right thing and made the right choice for my children. I feel that they became part of not only my children's family but my own.

I am shocked to hear that the reasons for this closure is due to a deficit. even though there are 8 other maintained nurseries that have a deficit. I believe that during this terrible pandemic of covid 19 has had a large impact on me as well as the nursery and other

business. Personally I believe that the council should take this into consideration before making a decision to close the nursery.

I feel let down by the council that you can make decisions about our children's futures as well as the staff at the nursery during these terrible uncertain times. It has been made public in previous meetings that the children of Hetton nursery will move up to Hetton primary when the parents have not said this. I know for a fact that my daughter will not be taking my granddaughter up to Hetton primary. Also she is heavily pregnant and is wanting to put the baby into the baby room at Hetton but unfortunately this will not be happening if your proposal goes ahead, leaving my daughter stuck as there is not any other nursery in the area with outstanding childcare facilities.

I have looked at many ofsted reports from nurseries in Hetton and Houghton area, finding that Hetton Le Hole Nursery outshone every one of them by far with a ofsted report of outstanding due to the teaching and care of the staff at the nursery.

Been a member of a close knit pit village I know for a fact that the members of the public and families of the nursery have taken it upon themselves to start fundraising and coming up with ideas to clear the deficit. But still myself and others are been ignored and it makes me feel disturbed that you have not taken this into consideration listening to the public.

I would like to add that Hetton nursery is located in the centre of Hetton with very little traffic which can not be said about any of the others. In summary I fully object to the proposed closure. to close the nursery would cause unnecessary stress and upheaval in the lives of the whole community.

Thanks

22/03/2021

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 18:20

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject:

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I am writing to strongly object to the proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Nursery for many reasons.

This outstanding nursery in Hetton is the only one of it's kind and it has been at the hub of the community well for many years. There is no other nursery or school which can offer the level of care, support or high quality education as well as Hetton le Hole Nursery.

It is clear that this proposal is based on financial issues when the DFE guidance states that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget. Funding from the government and LA has not been sufficient and the leadership of the nursery have done all that they can to maintain a healthy budget. However, the council could have used a tiny proportion of the £4 million underspend from the last 3 years to remove the deficit and provide the support required.

There is no comparison to the quality of provision offered at Hetton-le-Hole Nursery in the local area. The nursery is graded as outstanding by Ofsted In addition to this, the nursery has a qualified SENDco who is an early years specialist and is able to support all children who have additional needs to make outstanding progress during their time at nursery.

Funding decisions about Maintained Nursery Schools have not been made by parliament and the government is urging local authorities to hold off making decisions about their longer-term futures.

I am strongly against the proposed closure of this nursery.

From < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 18:33

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton-le-Hole Nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I am writing to object strongly to the proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Nursery for the following reasons.

This is the only outstanding provision in Hetton and therefore there is simply no alternative for our children to go to.

Nursery schools are expected to operate in a competitive market without having the same freedoms as their private sector competitors. Sunderland City Council has permitted unfair competition by allowing a private nursery to open within 0.5 miles of the nursery.

DFE guidance states that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget. All reasons for this proposed funding are around financial aspects. Funding from the government and LA has not been sufficient and the leadership of the nursery have done all that they can to maintain a healthy budget. However, the council could have used a tiny proportion of the £4 million underspend from the last 3 years to remove the deficit and provide the support required.

There is no comparison to the quality of provision offered at Hetton-le-Hole Nursery in the local area. The nursery is graded as outstanding by Ofsted In addition to this, the nursery has a qualified SENDco who is an early years specialist and is able to support all children who have additional needs to make outstanding progress during their time at nursery.

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 18:46

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Stop Hetton-le-Hole Nursery closure

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Dear Mr Alan Rowan,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Nursery for the following reasons.

This outstanding provision in Hetton is the hub of the community and has provided amazing education to a number of my family members. There is simply no alternative for our children to go to and we would not want to put them anywhere else. The care, love and excellent learning that is provided by Hetton le Hole cannot be replicated anywhere else.

DFE guidance says that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget. All reasons for this proposal are around financial aspects. Funding from the government and LA has not been sufficient and the leadership of the nursery have done all that they can to maintain a healthy budget. However, the council could have used a tiny proportion of the £4 million underspend from the last 3 years to remove the deficit and provide the support required.

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 18:53

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: School closure

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Nursery for the following reasons.

DFE guidance states that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget. All reasons for this proposed funding are around financial aspects. Funding from the government and LA has not been sufficient and the leadership of the nursery have done all that they

can to maintain a healthy budget. However, the council could have used a tiny proportion of the £4 million underspend from the last 3 years to remove the deficit and provide the support required.

Covid has brought so many challenges and difficulties to all communities, this is one that this amazing school community really did not need. The impact of covid has been significant on all children and families. How can we possibly justify closing a nursery school against DFE guidance and when the LA has a huge underspend in such difficult times?

There is no comparison to the quality of provision offered at Hetton-le-Hole Nursery in the local area. The nursery is graded as outstanding by Ofsted In addition to this, the nursery has a qualified SENDco who is an early years specialist and is able to support all children who have additional needs to make outstanding progress during their time at nursery.

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 18:55

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: HETTON NURSERY

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I am very saddened by the opposed closure to this outstanding nursery school, i would like to ask and plead personally for you to reconsider and keep this outstanding nursery school open.

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 19:15

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject:

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Good evening,

I am writing to voice significant and profound concerns regarding the proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Nursery for the following reasons.

This nursery and all of its staff have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to support both children and families. Their provision for key workers and then for the return for all has been simply amazing- for both the children and their families. Even throughout such a worrying time, they have continued to offer the outstanding provision which they always do, some of which has allowed families working from home to feel supported. We cannot thank them enough.

The fact that the nursery has a qualified SENDco who is an early years specialist and is able to support all children who have additional needs to make outstanding progress during their time at nursery is a significant difference to the alternatives which we will have if this decision goes ahead. I absolutely oppose this decision. This level of support and expertise will not be available at any other provision and therefore this nursery is an essential part of the community.

I was deeply shocked and disgusted to find out about the LA underspend of £4 million when this consultation was underway. This funding would have completely resolved this issue. DFE guidance says that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget. All reasons for this proposal are around financial aspects. It is very clear that the leadership of the nursery have done all that they can to maintain a healthy budget. However, the council could have used a tiny proportion of the £4 million underspend from the last 3 years to remove the deficit and provide the support required.

Yours sincerely,

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 19:25

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>;

ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton-le-Hole Nursey

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

Good evening,

I am writing to voice significant concerns regarding the proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Nursery for the following reasons.

This nursery has worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to support both children and families. Their provision for key workers and then for the return for all has been simply amazing. Even throughout such a worrying time they have continued to offer the outstanding provision which they always do. We cannot thank them enough.

The fact that the nursery has a qualified SENDco who is an early years specialist and is able to support all children who have additional needs to make outstanding progress during their time at nursery is a significant difference to the alternatives which we will have if this decision goes ahead. I absolutely oppose this decision. This level of support and expertise will not be available at any other provision and therefore this nursery is an essential part of the community.

I was shocked and disgusted to find out about the LA underspend of £4 million when this consultation was underway. This funding would have completely resolved this issue. DFE guidance says that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget. All reasons for this proposal are around financial aspects. It is very clear that the leadership of the nursery have done all that they can to maintain a healthy budget. However, the council could have used a tiny proportion of the £4 million underspend from the last 3 years to remove the deficit and provide the support required.

Regards,

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 19:27

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton-le-Hole Nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Good evening,

I am writing to voice significant concerns regarding the proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Nursery for the following reasons.

This nursery has worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to support both children and families. Their provision for key workers and then for the return for all has been simply amazing. Even throughout such a worrying time they have continued to offer the outstanding provision which they always do. We cannot thank them enough.

The fact that the nursery has a qualified SENDco who is an early years specialist and is able to support all children who have additional needs to make outstanding progress during their time at nursery is a significant difference to the alternatives which we will have if this decision goes ahead. I absolutely oppose this decision. This level of support and expertise will not be available at any other provision and therefore this nursery is an essential part of the community.

I was shocked and disgusted to find out about the LA underspend of £4 million when this consultation was underway. This funding would have completely resolved this issue. DFE guidance says that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget. All reasons for this proposal are around financial aspects. It is very clear that the leadership of the nursery have done all that they can to maintain a healthy budget. However, the council could have used a tiny proportion of the £4 million underspend from the last 3 years to remove the deficit and provide the support required.

Kind regards

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 19:41

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Save Hetton Nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I strongly object to the proposal of the closure the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Hetton-le-Hole Nursery for numerous reasons.

Firstly, Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is the only early years provision/ nursery that is graded as outstanding by Ofsted and there is no other setting available that can match the standard of the provision provided.

The main reason that Sunderland City Council have for the proposal of this closure is all related to budget issues however the DFE guidance states that maintained nursery schools should not be

closed solely because of a deficit budget position. It has been acknowledged in documented meetings that the financial vulnerability of the Nursery is not due to mismanagement of funds but due to the methodology behind the funding formula and the unavoidable costs associated with a Maintained Nursery School.

The council will not clear the nursery deficit or provide adequate funding despite having an underspend of over £4 million. Leaders and governors have worked extremely hard to balance the budget in difficult circumstances.

Children and parents have suffered immensely as a result of the covid pandemic and do not need this type of upheaval. Key workers need support during this pandemic we do not need to worry about the council closing our nursery.

-----Original Message-----

From: <>

Sent: 22 March 2021 19:44

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Heaton-le-Hole Nursery

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

Good evening,

I am writing to voice significant concerns regarding the proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Nursery for the following reasons.

This nursery has worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to support both children and families. Their provision for key workers and then for the return for all has been simply amazing. Even throughout such a worrying time they have continued to offer the outstanding provision which they always do. We cannot thank them enough.

The fact that the nursery has a qualified SENDco who is an early years specialist and is able to support all children who have additional needs to make outstanding progress during their time at nursery is a significant difference to the alternatives which we will have if this decision goes ahead. I absolutely oppose this decision. This level of support and expertise will not be available at any other provision and therefore this nursery is an essential part of the community.

I was shocked and disgusted to find out about the LA underspend of £4 million when this consultation was underway. This funding would have completely resolved this issue. DFE guidance says that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget. All reasons for this proposal are around financial aspects. It is very clear that the leadership of the nursery have done all that they can to maintain a healthy budget. However, the council could have used a tiny proportion of the £4 million underspend from the last 3 years to remove the deficit and provide the support required.

Date 22/3/21

From: <>

Sent: 22 March 2021 20:05

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection to closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Good Evening,

I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole because:

1. Sunderland City Council has failed to comply with the Department of Education Guidance of November [2019](#) of giving the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools.
2. Sunderland City Council has permitted and encouraged unfair competition by allowing numerous private nurseries to undercut state schools.
3. Sunderland City Council has been derelict in its duties by not actively involving and discussing with the Nursery, its governors, residents, families and Hetton Town Council possible ways to overcome the difficulties of falling roll numbers.
4. Sunderland City Council has not provided any Covid-19 relief funds to the Nursery despite having received many millions from central government.
5. Sunderland City Council has failed to provide additional funding for this Nursery and other maintained nurseries to clear any outstanding deficits despite having an underspend of over £4 million.
6. The budget forecast produced by Sunderland City Council to 'justify' the closure is inaccurate and forecast additional pupils will eliminate the projected deficit.
7. Sunderland City Council deliberately distorted facts relating to the uplift given to the Nursery as the reason for at least one other nursery school going into deficit.
8. Sunderland City Council will be putting the Health and Safety of young and vulnerable children from the Nursery at risk by transferring them to temporary demountable classrooms /asbestos ridden reconfigured building for a period of up to 3 years.
9. Sunderland City Council's Cabinet took the decision to move forward to a statutory consultation 5 days before the pre consultation closed and this did not permit all responses to be considered.

23.3.21

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 20:06

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>
Cc: Ruth Williamson <ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk>
Subject: Objection to Hetton le Hole Closure

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I am writing to object to the proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Nursery for many reasons. My granddaughter attended this nursery and it provided the best quality of teaching to her. She has the best start to her education and left the nursery exceeding in all areas. This has impacted on her primary education and successes significantly. Not only did the nursery provide fantastic educational opportunities but they also really effectively developed her social and emotional skills. She now demonstrates high levels of confidence and resilience as a direct result of this fantastic provision. I am deeply saddened that my younger grandchild will be unable to attend if this proposal goes through. I am certain there will be no provision which can match the quality that my granddaughter received. This is the only outstanding nursery in Hetton and it has served the community well for many years. There is no other nursery or school which can offer the level of care, support or high quality education as well as Hetton le Hole Nursery. It is clear that this proposal is based on financial issues when the DFE guidance states that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget. Funding from the government and LA has not been sufficient and the leadership of the nursery have done all that they can to maintain a healthy budget. However, the council could have used a tiny proportion of the £4 million underspend from the last 3 years to remove the deficit and provide the support required. There is no comparison to the quality of provision offered at Hetton-le-Hole Nursery in the local area. The nursery is graded as outstanding by Ofsted. In addition to this, the nursery has a qualified SENDco who is an early years specialist and is able to support all children who have additional needs to make outstanding progress during their time at nursery. Funding decisions about Maintained Nursery Schools have not been made by parliament and the government is urging local authorities to hold off making decisions about their longer-term futures. I am strongly against the proposed closure of this nursery.

From: < >
Sent: 22 March 2021 20:20
To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>; Ruth Williamson <ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk>
Subject: CLOSURE OF HETTON-LE-HOLE NURSERY

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

To Sunderland council,

I don't agree on closing what is deemed an outstanding nursery, the children that are there at the moment do not need any change at such a young age.

We have fantastic staff, who work really hard with the work that they put into running the nursery and the way in which they work with the children.

With the amount of houses being built in the Hetton area at the moment and the new families that will be moving into these houses, an outstanding nursery is an essential. So why close one that is fully equipped to deal with this demand?

I understand Hetton primary need a new school built because of the asbestos problem that they are suffering from, but closing what is already an outstanding nursery in the process and punishing the staff and children of Hetton-le-hole nursery is not the answer!

Don't close our nursery, have a heart!

Yours sincerely,

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 20:31

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Closure of Hetton Nursery

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

To whom it may concern

I would like to oppose the proposal to close the only outstanding nursery in Hetton. My son attended this nursery and had a fantastic start to his life and now my sisters child has his name down to the start baby room in September. The staff are second to none and go way above for the families.

I am confused at why the nursery is not just being relocated like Hetton Lyons onto the school site. Doesn't that make more sense?

Also I think it's terrible that you've made out it's not outstanding, that's just a really dirty trick. Have you considered the impact of the proposal to staff, losing their jobs in a pandemic, then kicking them in the teeth trying to take their fantastic achievements away?! You should all be totally ashamed of yourselves.

As for the deficit it is a drop in the ocean to the money that has been provided to the local authority. Why can't the local authority help the nursery survive in a time when the community needs it most. The council are happy to spend millions on a new primary, a bridge and some council offices that are likely to never get used fully. Just like the 10k whittled away on a new canteen that's now going to be demolished in the civic centre. And let's not forget the 4 million underspend. Wonder if that's going to just get covered up???

To be honest it looks like the council have had this plan for ages. You let Hetton house open less than a mile away. Then last year Hetton primary was planned without being honest with Hetton town council or the community. I think this is a deliberate act which has been planned for sometime.

Unfortunately for you the public haven't responded as you wanted and they've stood up and defended these immoral plans.

They've seen the true colours of the Labour Party who have responded negatively to any protests against closure, but now in the final hour they are 'pretending' to care. Well hopefully people will use their votes to show their disgust in this situation. We have been hugely let down by you all.

Please use your vote on 8th of April to do what is right and show that you actually represent the people. I hope you find your moral compass before it is too late.

A very disappointed

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 20:43

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Proposal of closure of hetton nursery school

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Hi, this is my response to the proposal of closure of Hetton-Le-Hole nursery school. My little boy is attending who has nearly completed his first year. He wasn't long ago diagnosed with autism and was falling way behind in his development especially social. Since attending this Nursery setting he has improved, learned and developed rapidly thanks to the ongoing support and skill carried out by the staff. My main concern is with him being halfway through his journey that the transition will have an impact on his emotional well being. I personally feel he won't receive the level of care or support elsewhere as he's does within this outstanding Nursery school.

All keyworkers need support during this pandemic and not needing to worry about the Nursery closure as well as more jobs being lost and smaller opportunities for children's education. We are still within the middle of a pandemic and have all suffered a great ordeal whether that be financially, health or loss of a loved one. I don't find it beneficial to remove a nursery especially for financial gain or whatever the rumours have been circling around, it's just straight up disappointing and down right outrageous to believe that a community can be so easily torn apart for some extra cash which no likely will not go back into improving the communal area surrounding the nursery or its neighbours.

I personally did not plan for my child and future child/children to attend any other Nursery setting especially not Hetton primary. It really concerns me how we are expected to send our children to a setting which is riddled with asbestos and how the council are willing to spend their money elsewhere rather than making use of the established nursery setting.

I feel like it's time to give this amazing community a chance to turn this around before a major proposal takes place. Parents have been putting together financial plans to save this amazingly outstanding Nursery setting and have raised £3,000 plus within a few weeks, which in this current climate where people are without work and unable to due to COVID raising such a substantial amount to aid the nursery is outstanding in itself. All we need now is to share our plan with the council as I fear there's been very little communication within the whole of the community to take action.

This outstanding setting has been established since 1945 and was pronounced the first ever maintained Nursery school within the whole of Sunderland. As said before my child currently attends and the care I've witnessed him receiving is extraordinary, the staff go above and beyond to support

all children/children with various needs and all families within the area. This nursery and the performance of it has always been known and recognised as top class "outstanding". Research also shows that maintained Nursery schools provide a better quality of education for all children.

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 20:45

To: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk; School Organisation
<schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton le hole nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Good evening,

I am writing to voice significant concerns regarding the proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Nursery for the following reasons.

This nursery has worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to support both children and families. Their provision for key workers and then for the return for all has been simply amazing. Even throughout such a worrying time they have continued to offer the outstanding provision which they always do. We cannot thank them enough.

The fact that the nursery has a qualified SENDco who is an early years specialist and is able to support all children who have additional needs to make outstanding progress during their time at nursery is a significant difference to the alternatives which we will have if this decision goes ahead. I absolutely oppose this decision. This level of support and expertise will not be available at any other provision and therefore this nursery is an essential part of the community.

I was shocked and disgusted to find out about the LA underspend of £4 million when this consultation was underway. This funding would have completely resolved this issue. DFE guidance says that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget. All reasons for this proposal are around financial aspects. It is very clear that the leadership of the nursery have done all that they can to maintain a healthy budget. However, the council could have used a tiny proportion of the £4 million underspend from the last 3 years to remove the deficit and provide the support required.

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 20:51

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Objection to Closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole for the following reasons. Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is the only early years provision/ nursery that is graded as outstanding by Ofsted.

No other setting currently can match the standard of the provision provided. Our nursery has a qualified SENDco who is an early years specialist and is able to support all children who have additional needs to make outstanding progress during their time at nursery. Other provisions are less accessible to us. Children and parents have suffered immensely as a result of the covid pandemic and do not need this type of upheaval. Key workers need support during this pandemic we do not need to worry about the council closing our nursery. The council is allocating in excess of 5 million on a new build. In the consultation report it mentions further funds to be spent on ICT, furniture, and demolition, which is predicted to be in the region of £2-£12 million. The council will not clear the nursery deficit or provide adequate funding. Leaders and governors have worked extremely hard to balance the budget in difficult circumstances. Sunderland City Council has permitted and encouraged unfair competition by allowing numerous private nurseries to undercut state schools. Finally, Sunderland City Council has failed to provide additional funding for this Nursery and other maintained nurseries to clear any outstanding deficits despite having an underspend of over £4 million.

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 20:52

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Proposed closure of Hetton-le-hole Nursery

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

To whom it may concern,

I absolutely oppose the proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Nursery for numerous reasons which I have detailed below.

My niece attended this nursery and has been extremely happy there. She has thrived and developed more than we ever thought was possible. It is no surprise that this nursery is graded outstanding by ofsted. As a result of this fantastic experience, I plan to send my child there in a few months once my wife returns to work. We are more than willing to travel out of our area as this provision is amazing. We have visited many nurseries and it is clear that none compare to this.

The staff have been amazing throughout the pandemic with my niece and wider family, even during this period when all of their jobs are at risk. I cannot believe that there is a chance that these talented individuals are likely to have no jobs to go on to at Hetton Primary, especially the leaders, so expertise will be lost. This will have a devastating impact on the community and my niece and my child. How can this even be a consideration?

There are simply no alternatives which we will have if this decision goes ahead. I absolutely object to this decision.

The council proposal that my child could, instead of accessing this outstanding provision, be educated in demountable classrooms until the new build is ready in 2022 is simply absurd and we will not consider this in the slightest. I would like some clarity about how reconfiguring the building, rather than making use of the already established nursery provides good value for money. Especially given that Hetton Primary has never had a nursery and have no experience or evidence to support that this would be anywhere near the quality offered at Hetton Le Hole Nursery.

I urge you not to close this outstanding provision. There is no alternative my child or the many other families who are all fighting against this closure. The community must be listened to.

22nd March 2021

-----Original Message-----

From: <>

Sent: 22 March 2021 20:53

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Objection to closure of Hetton-le-Hole nursery

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

I am writing to strongly object to the proposal of the closure Hetton-le-Hole Nursery for the many reasons.

Most importantly, Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is graded as outstanding by Ofsted and no other provider compares to the quality of provision offered. The headteacher has knowledge and leadership skills which are second to none and Ruth has shared this extremely valuable knowledge with Durham University students for many years.

The nursery has a qualified SENDco who is an early years specialist and is able to support all children who have additional needs to make outstanding progress during their time at nursery.

Nursery Schools are required to provide high quality early education, led by specialist headteachers, and delivered by qualified teachers especially in deprived areas and to put parents and families at the centre of their work. DFE guidance (November 2019) stipulates that the decision-maker should give the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools. The pre consultation received 541 responses, in which 92% of those responding did not agree with plans to close the nursery.

The Council has not provided any Covid-19 relief funds to the despite having received many millions of pounds from central government. The Nursery has incurred £76,000 of Covid-19 losses this year, however despite this the closing deficit (in year) was £58,449. The nursery was unable to furlough staff due to them being council employees.

Funding decisions about Maintained Nursery Schools have not been made by parliament and the government is urging local authorities to hold off making decisions about their longer-term futures.

This proposal is based solely on budget issues when the DFE guidance states that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget. Funding has not been sufficient and the leadership of the nursery have done all that they can to maintain a healthy budget. However, this deficit could have been cleared though had the council used some of the £4 million underspend from the last 3 years.

It is paramount that Hetton Le Hole Nursery remains and is provided with sufficient funding to enable the continued outstanding provision for all children.

22/03/21

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 21:02

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williams@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Proposed closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my objection to the proposed closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School. This Nursery School is a wonderful nursery and a true asset to the area, it is the only early years provision that has been marked as outstanding by OFSTED. It provides childcare from birth to five years, and as there is various new houses being built and purchased by new families I feel the need for early years provision is even more in need. I know from personal experience of the wonderful care and education they provide to our youngest children. The proposed building of a new primary school for Hetton Primary School should not be an either or choice, the new school is desperately needed but should not be at the expense of an 'outstanding' nursery closing. There is a need for both. The reason being suggested for the closure of the nursery seems to be very money lead which is disgraceful as we know early years provision has been under-funded for many years by Sunderland Council, and by not giving fair funding to the nursery the deficit the current manager inherited has been created not by the nursery but the lack of value held for the youngest in our society by government's in years gone by. Funded places for 2 year olds whom are most vulnerable have been sort at Hetton-le-Hole Nursery by local authorities as they know the wonderful positive impact this nursery can have on those children who need it most. Sunderland Council would be robbing future generations of the opportunity to attend an outstanding nursery, the ONLY outstanding nursery, in Hetton. This Nursery should not be closed, and we will fight this every step of the way as we value this wonderful early years provider and see the difference they make to our young child even if Sunderland Council can't or don't want too, we will be here to shout as loud as possible that we are not prepared to lose this most treasured nursery school, and shame on Sunderland Council for thinking they could take it away from us!

Yours faithfully,

-----Original Message-----

From < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 21:19

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>
Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk
Subject: Hetton le Hole Nursery School

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

I absolutely object to the proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Nursery. I cannot believe that given the outstanding grading, the fact that we are in the middle of a pandemic and the enormous underspend from Sunderland City Council that we are even having to go through this process.

My child has attended this outstanding provision in Hetton le Hole from being a baby and has made so much progress that she is now exceeding age related expectations. The support from the staff has been invaluable and my child has never been happier. Hetton le Hole Nursery is the hub of the community and our children deserve the best which only Hetton Le Hole nursery can provide. There is no alternative option for our family to go to and we would not want to put our children anywhere else. The passion, knowledge and support cannot be found anywhere else.

The council proposal that children should, instead of accessing this outstanding provision, be educated in demountable classrooms until the new build is ready in 2022 is ridiculous and we will not consider this in the slightest.

The council is allocating in excess of £5 million on a new build. In the consultation report it mentions further funds to be spent on ICT, furniture, and demolition, which is predicted to be in the region of £2-£12 million. The council will not clear the nursery deficit or provide adequate funding. How can this spending be justified when there is no financial support being provided to support the best Nursery in the area?

DfE guidance says that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget. All reasons for this proposal are around financial aspects. Funding from the government and LA has not been sufficient and the leadership of the nursery have done all that they can to maintain a healthy budget. However, the council could have used a tiny proportion of the £4 million underspend from the last 3 years to remove the deficit and provide the support required.

I call on you to support our children and our community by keeping open Hetton Le Hole Nursery. It is the best provision and children excel in their care. This simply cannot close.

22/3/2021

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 21:21

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>;
ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject:

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee,

I write to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School. To close this outstanding nursery, in an area of deprivation, when so many young children are so severely affected emotionally and socially by the pandemic we find ourselves in, is ill timed and will compound social and emotional difficulties as well as developmental delays that face many of our younger children. The impact on children and their happiness and emotional well-being should be the first priority of the council, not finances. I ask the council to reconsider this proposal and put the children's well being first in a time when they need stability most. Outstanding nursery schools are something to be saved they provide communities like the community of Hetton with a very high standard of education and provide children in areas of deprivation with the education they need to allow them to succeed in life. Closing the nursery now would take this opportunity of an outstanding education away from children when they need it the most and when their short lives have been affected most by covid. Please save this nursery and give our children the education to allow them the future they deserve.

Yours sincerely,

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 21:24

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le Hole Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Hi I am writing with regards to the proposed closure of the above nursery.

I wish to voice my concerns and disappointment at hearing such sad news.

As a working mother of 3 I know the real struggle it is to find a nursery that can provide the care, education and support to our children and their families. As there are limited 'outstanding' nurseries in the area I find it quite discouraging that there is a proposal to close one! Please take into account these little people- who are at the most pinnacle times in their lives- and their families who- like the rest of us are already trying their best to do everything in their power to protect their little ones. Please put these children first.

Thank you.

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 21:31

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>;

ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le Hole objection

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I strongly oppose the proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Nursery for the following reasons.

This outstanding provision in Hetton is the hub of the community and has provided amazing education for many family members. There is simply no alternative for the children in our family to go to and we would not want to put them anywhere else. The care, love and excellent learning that is provided by Hetton le Hole cannot be replicated anywhere else. The council proposal that children should, instead of accessing this outstanding provision, be educated in demountable classrooms until the new build is ready in 2022 is not acceptable and we will not consider this in the slightest. DFE guidance says that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget. All reasons for this proposal are around financial aspects. Funding from the government and LA has not been sufficient and the leadership of the nursery have done all that they can to maintain a healthy budget. However, the council could have used a tiny proportion of the £4 million underspend from the last 3 years to remove the deficit and provide the support required.

22.03.21

From:

Sent: 22 March 2021 21:45

To: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk; School Organisation

<schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton le Hole Nursery - Proposed Closure

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Dear Ruth Williamson,

We are writing to you in support of the opposition to the proposed closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery.

We have a grandson who started attending the nursery in 2020 and now through your proposals he and many other children may be unable to do so. He is part way through his journey of understanding and learning at the nursery, and this has been due to the incredibly supportive, understanding and caring staff who as Grandparents we cannot rate highly enough. We view the nursery as a vital community resource.

Hetton-le-Hole Nursery offers our grandson all that he needs in his learning and development, and the nursery is the only early years and nursery that is graded as outstanding by Ofsted. No other local nursery can match the standard of the provision provided, or the number of places needed to continue supporting children and parents through the current Covid pandemic and

beyond. The nursery has continued to educate the children of parents who have had to continue working as key workers or to offer vital respite to those parents who also had other children at home during this difficult year. Continuation and familiar surroundings are vital to the children who go to Hetton le Hole Nursery.

Our grandson's parents both have full time employment, his father is a member of the armed forces, and it is important for him to know that his son's education is continuing in an outstanding nursery supported by dedicated and caring staff.

Despite having received millions of pounds from government, the Council has not provided any financial Covid support to the Nursery. What will happen to the trained staff who have studied for many years to be able to give the educational support and development that the children need if the nursery is to close?

Will they all be able to gain similar employment locally? Probably not. So, where does all that expertise and dedication go? And, how does that support local employment opportunities?

Our grandson has developed enormously since he has attended the nursery, and there were no plans for him to go elsewhere until he was of primary school age. Given this proposal, where is parental choice catered for?

The proposal is for the nursery to close this year and for the children to be educated in demountable classrooms until a new building is ready in 2022. To date I understand that the council have failed to share the financial comparisons for running the nursery until 2022 and the costs for temporary classrooms.

What risk assessments have the council taken in relation to asbestos in demountable classrooms and the additional money spent on reconfiguring the building, instead of investing in an already established, outstanding nursery?

The council is proposing to allocate in excess of £5 million on a new building. The consultation document also mentions further funds to be spent on ICT, furniture, and demolition, which may be in the region of £2million+, yet the Council will not provide adequate funding to the nursery and does not seem to have worked effectively with the Leaders and governors (who have worked extremely hard to balance the budget in difficult circumstances) to develop a sustainable business plan. The Council has the resources to do this. This is not supporting the local community!

The main reason put forward for this closure is financial, yet the council seems to think it prudent to spend in excess of £5million on a new build nursery, however there is underspending in other areas of educational budgets.

Despite leaders being open to suggestions, the council has not proposed any alternatives to the Nursey to prevent its closure. Deprived areas such as Hetton le Hole need this much valued resource for young children and their families.

The council's current stance does not demonstrate investment in its local area or its people of today and tomorrow.

The pre consultation received 541 responses, in which 92% of those responding did not agree with plans to close the nursery.

The baby room provision is being lost and the flexibility of term time only element of the nursery will not be replicated at the primary school. This is vital to working parents. If government encourages nursery take up how can parents do this if places are at a premium? Does this create elitism, and if it does, how can a Labour led council condone this?

The local community have shown their fierce determination to save the nursery. Parents have put together a financial plan to improve the nursery's situation, however they have not been allowed to share this plan with the council. They have also raised funds of £3,000 in a very short time. The community must be allowed time to continue to try and turn this situation around before such a major proposal is considered.

There is a clear lack of consultation with the community and their proposals are being ignored. The voice of the local community must be heard to save this vital and much needed nursery.

Yours,

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 22:02

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee,

I write to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School.

To close down a nursery at any time is shocking but when so many young children are so severely affected emotionally and socially by this world we are living in right now due to the pandemic is absolutely ruthless and unthinkable!

This will have such an impact on the small humans who attend the nursery it will not only impact them socially causing emotional difficulties but will without a doubt cause developmental delays.

As no doubt you as members of the committee are parents/aunties/uncles/grandparents yourselves how could you begin to cause such unhappiness and disrupt the emotional well-being of these children how would you feel if this was a child you were close to??? All for financial gain is absolutely disgusting!

The childrens happiness and wellbeing should be the first priority of the council, not finances.

As a member of the public with a child who attends a different nursery in the area I would like to ask the council to reconsider closing Hetton le hole nursery and put the children's well being first in a time when they need stability most.

Outstanding nursery schools are hard to come by and this nursery being closed will be a huge loss to the community! Nurseries like Hetton le hole provide communities with a very high standard of education and provide children in areas of deprivation with the education they need to allow them

to succeed in life you are taking this away from the children in the community do you not feel guilt for this!??

Closing the nursery now would take this outstanding education away from these children when they need it the most covid has stopped alot of things for these children and finances should not be used as a reason for depriving these children of this outstanding nursery, friendships, well being, routine and happiness!

Please have a heart and save this nursery and give these amazing children the education to allow them the future they deserve.

Yours sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 22:20

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton Nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

F.A.O Alan Rowan

I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole because:

1. Sunderland City Council has failed to comply with the Department of Education Guidance of November 2019 of giving the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools.
2. Sunderland City Council has permitted and encouraged unfair competition by allowing numerous private nurseries to undercut state schools.
3. Sunderland City Council has been derelict in its duties by not actively involving and discussing with the Nursery, its governors, residents, families and Hetton Town Council possible ways to overcome the difficulties of falling roll numbers.
4. Sunderland City Council has not provided any Covid-19 relief funds to the Nursery despite having received many millions from central government.
5. Sunderland City Council has failed to provide additional funding for this Nursery and other maintained nurseries to clear any outstanding deficits despite having an underspend of over £4 million.
6. The budget forecast produced by Sunderland City Council to 'justify' the closure is inaccurate and forecast additional pupils will eliminate the projected deficit.

7. Sunderland City Council deliberately distorted facts relating to the uplift given to the Nursery as the reason for at least one other nursery school going into deficit.
8. Sunderland City Council will be putting the Health and Safety of young and vulnerable children from the Nursery at risk by transferring them to temporary demountable classrooms /asbestos ridden reconfigured building for a period of up to 3 years.
9. Sunderland City Council's Cabinet took the decision to move forward to a statutory consultation 5 days before the pre consultation closed and this did not permit all responses to be considered.

Date 22.03.21

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 22:23

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

FAO Allan Rowan

I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole because:

1. Sunderland City Council has failed to comply with the Department of Education Guidance of November 2019 of giving the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools.
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9. Sunderland City Council's Cabinet took the decision to move forward to a statutory consultation 5 days before the pre consultation closed and this did not permit all responses to be considered.

22/03/2021

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 22:24

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

To Whom it May Concern

I am writing to say I disagree with the proposed closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School.

I am employed by Sunderland City Council and work on school meals. I have worked in the Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School kitchen for the past four years.

I knew when I first walked through the door at the nursery that I was going to like working there. It has such a lovely atmosphere and the staff are so friendly and welcoming.

In my time at the nursery I have seen first hand how all of the staff are with the children. I can honestly say every member of staff treats every child as an individual in such a nurturing and supportive way. This ensures that the children thrive and progress while at the nursery.

I would also like to mention how amazing each member of staff is with children with additional needs. I see how they go out of their way to adapt to each child's needs and do everything they can to help the child reach their full potential.

My son has autism so I know the importance of finding the right setting for your child in an environment where you know they will be safe and understood. Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School has staff who are qualified to support children with additional needs and the staff are amazing with all of the children creating a very inclusive environment.

In what has been a very challenging year for everybody, the staff at the nursery have had the added pressure of the proposed closure. However I have seen day after day how the staff have put that aside to care for the children, interact with the parents and maintain the high standards of the nursery. They thoroughly deserve to be an outstanding nursery.

As a parent, I really feel for the parents of the children at the nursery, they thought they had their child/children settled at the nursery until they start school only now to be told that may not be the case.

Then also the children themselves, who are at the heart of all of this. Should the nursery close they are expected to transfer to another nursery, this has been a year of change anyway for children but the nursery and all the staff have been a much needed constant in their lives so for that to maybe change also could be very detrimental to the children and their well-being.

To finish I would just like to say that Ruth, Laura, Amy, Kelly, Lynsey, Abbi, Sam, Kelly, Becki, Kirsty, Stephen and Kathleen all do an amazing job, they should be very proud of themselves and their OUTSTANDING nursery.

Thank you

From: < >

Sent: 22 March 2021 22:31

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le Hole Nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I am writing to strongly voice my opposition to the proposal of the closure Hetton-le-Hole Nursery for the following reasons.

Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is graded as outstanding by Ofsted and no other provider compares to the quality of provision offered in the local area.

This proposal is based solely on budget issues when the DFE guidance states that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget.

Funding has not been sufficient and the leadership of the nursery have done all that they can to maintain a healthy budget. However, this deficit could have been cleared had the council used some of the £4 million underspend from the last 3 years.

Nursery Schools are required to provide high quality early education, led by specialist headteachers, and delivered by qualified teachers especially in deprived areas and to put parents and families at the centre of their work. DFE guidance (November 2019) stipulates that the decision-maker should give the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools. The pre consultation received 541 responses, in which 92% of those responding did not agree with plans to close the nursery.

Funding decisions about Maintained Nursery Schools have not been made by parliament and the government is urging local authorities to hold off making decisions about their longer-term futures.

22nd March 2021

From: < >

Sent: 23 March 2021 00:00

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: For the Attention of the members of the school organisation committee

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I am writing to object to the closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery School rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted.

My son is currently attending the nursery and has done since starting as a baby he follows my Daughter who left last year for school and also my Nephews who all attended this outstanding nursery.

My son is extremely happy at the nursery he has a strong bond with all the staff who have built a trust with him from starting as a baby when I went back to work.

He feels safe and secure at the nursery and thrives on the environment meaning he is a happy and thriving 3 year old boy who loves to learn and socialise in the place he loves.

I feel that closing the nursery will not only be upsetting but also detrimental to my sons learning and during the pandemic we find ourselves in is irresponsible and neglectful of the council.

The children have been through enough at such a young age and i would be devastated to have to tell him that another staple in his life is being taken away i also don't know what impact this could have on his behaviour and mental state at such a young age.

My son and the children of Hetton and surrounding areas deserve to have access to an Outstanding Nursery which none of the other settings offer I feel this would potentially put children at an added disadvantage.

Sunderland City Council have not been forthcoming in its duties by not actively including all involved with the nursery to look at viable ways of overcoming the difficulties faced with falling roll numbers.

The nursery has received no Covid-19 relief funds even though the funds were there to access from central government.

Everyone involved with the Nursery including Hetton town Council, School governors, staff, children and the wider community are more than willing to set an agreed financial plan with the council to actively turn around the deficit.

No members of the council have approached the nursery to look at a financial plan and its disappointing to learn that Sunderland City Council are sitting on a 4 million underspend for Maintained Nursery's which would clear the deficit and as you can imagine as a mam this is very disappointing the money is not been directed to where it's needed most.

It's not acceptable that Sunderland City Council are not having the conversations needed and all avenues explored and exhausted before looking to close an outstanding nursery in a deprived area.

I would not be willing to uproot my son from the nursery he loves and feels safe to a temporary classroom in a strange setting where asbestos is present for a period of up to 3 years it makes absolutely no sense and is putting the Health and Safety of young and venerable children at risk.

Please reconsider Hetton Le Hole Nursery school is rated outstanding for a reason it has something that no other nursery in the area has got please work with the nursery for a more favourable outcome for all in a time where children need stability and jobs are difficult to come by for even the most professional and outstanding staff.

Yours Sincerely

-----Original Message-----

From: <>

Sent: 23 March 2021 01:11

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Hetton Nursery School

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole because:

1. Sunderland City Council has failed to comply with the Department of Education Guidance of November 2019 of giving the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools.
2. Sunderland City Council has permitted and encouraged unfair competition by allowing numerous private nurseries to undercut state schools.
3. Sunderland City Council has been derelict in its duties by not actively involving and discussing with the Nursery, its governors, residents, families and Hetton Town Council possible ways to overcome the difficulties of falling roll numbers.

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6. The budget forecast produced by Sunderland City Council to 'justify' the closure is inaccurate and forecast additional pupils will eliminate the projected deficit.
7. Sunderland City Council deliberately distorted facts relating to the uplift given to the Nursery as the reason for at least one other nursery school going into deficit.
8. Sunderland City Council will be putting the Health and Safety of young and vulnerable children from the Nursery at risk by transferring them to temporary demountable classrooms /asbestos ridden reconfigured building for a period of up to 3 years.
9. Sunderland City Council's Cabinet took the decision to move forward to a statutory consultation 5 days before the pre consultation closed and this did not permit all responses to be considered.

From: <>

Sent: 23 March 2021 05:49

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: FAO members of the school organisation committee

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee,

I write to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School. To close the nursery when so many young children are so severely affected emotionally and socially by the pandemic we find ourselves in, is ill timed and will compound social and emotional difficulties as well as developmental delays that face many of our younger children. The impact on children and their happiness and emotional well-being should be the first priority of the council, not finances. I ask the council to reconsider this proposal and put the children's well being first in a time when they need stability most. Outstanding nursery schools are something to be saved they provide communities like the community of Hetton with a very high standard of education and provide children in areas of deprivation with the education they need to allow them to succeed in life. Closing the nursery now would take this opportunity of an outstanding education away from children when they need it the most and when their short lives have been affected most by covid. Please save this nursery and give our children the education to allow them the future they deserve.

Yours sincerely,

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 23 March 2021 06:55

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Objection to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

Dear Sirs

I am writing to formally object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School.

This closure is unnecessary and I truly believe the council is making a terrible decision in closing the nursery and potentially losing great staff and the expertise they have.

This is an outstanding Ofsted rated nursery and I believe the only one in the area and the closure would massively impact our children and the community. My daughter attended this nursery and I have seen first hand the truly amazing job the staff at this nursery do. My daughter thrived whilst attending the nursery and Ruth and the team gave her a great foundation and the skills she needed to start and excel in school. I believe no other setting can currently offer the standard that this nursery school does.

I find it an outrage that you intend to move children from this nursery with its beautiful outdoor learning area and into pre fab buildings whilst the new school is built. I do not object to new build but I do strongly object to the decision to close this nursery. Our children need stability particularly in the current climate having already suffered greatly due to the pandemic and to close this nursery now would be a terrible decision.

As there are a number of new build developments going up in the surrounding area I would ask do we not need additional nursery places to accommodate these children?

I would urge you to listen and observe the efforts the community has made to help this outstanding nursery and reverse the closure decision.

Kind regards

From: < >

Sent: 23 March 2021 07:31

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton Nursery for the attention of Alan Rowan

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole because:

1. Sunderland City Council has failed to comply with the Department of Education Guidance of November 2019 of giving the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal – especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools.
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9. Sunderland City Council's Cabinet took the decision to move forward to a statutory consultation 5 days before the pre consultation closed and this did not permit all responses to be considered.

From: < >

Sent: 23 March 2021 07:39

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton Le Hole Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Dear Sir/Madam,

With regards to the proposed closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery School, we would like to pass on our objections to Sunderland City Council, and sincerely hope that this decision can be reversed. Why close a perfectly good Nursery School which has an outstanding record, outstanding teachers and dedicated supporters, it makes no sense at all, surely there are enough children in the Hetton Le Hole area to safeguard the longevity of this brilliant Nursery. I have lived in Hetton Le Hole for nearly 70 years and this Nursery is part of my history and hundreds of others, we all have happy memories

associated with this wonderful and massive part of Hetton history, " Hetton Le Hole Nursery School" please see common sense and keep this Nursery School open.

Yours faithfully

From: < >
Sent: 23 March 2021 08:02
To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>
Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk
Subject: Hetton le hole nursery objection

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I object to the closure of Hetton le hole nursery.

Thanks

From: < >
Sent: 23 March 2021 08:14
To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>
Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk
Subject: Object closure

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I object to Sunderland City Council's proposal to close the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rated Nursery School in Hetton-le-Hole. In 2011 I sent my child Layla to this setting and she had a fantastic start to her education. The staff made sure she was settled and her education grew massively during her time there.

I feel Sunderland City Council has failed to comply with the Department of Education Guidance of giving the greatest weight to responses from those stakeholders likely to be most directly affected by a proposal, especially parents of children at the affected school. The decision-makers are expected to adopt a presumption against the closure of maintained nursery schools.

Sunderland City Council has been derelict in its duties by not actively involving and discussing with the Nursery, its governors, residents, families.

Why did the setting not receive any Covid-19 relief funds? despite having received many millions from central government. To close this nursery will be a big loss to the community, especially as its rated outstanding and the only outstanding setting in this area. I have spoken to a lot of people around Hetton and they can't believe this is even being talked about, in a global pandemic of all times.

Please look into other options. There must be something that can be done. Please don't close this nursery.

Date 22/03/2021

-----Original Message-----

From: <>

Sent: 23 March 2021 08:23

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le hole nursery objection

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

To whom it may concern,

I object to the closure of Hetton le Hole nursery school

The nursery has been part of the community for the last 75 years and has provided stability for children and carers/parents during this pandemic. I don't feel that children should suffer the upheaval of moving nurseries and nor should the carers/parents

Regards

-----Original Message-----

From: <>

Sent: 23 March 2021 08:42

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton-le-Hole Nursery Objection

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

Dear Sirs

I am writing to object to the closure of Hetton le hole nursery school.

There's no other outstanding provision within the immediate area and my understanding is there is no other planned use for the building, even if there was, what can be more important than our children.

The nursery setting is incomparable to others locally and financially the nursery hasn't been given a fair opportunity to turn things round. A small increase per child would assist in the reducing the deficit especially if numbers were increased.

I trust you will take on board the objections and reconsider your decision.

Yours faithfully,

From: < >

Sent: 23 March 2021 09:10

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le hole nursery objection

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Hi,

I object to the closure of Hetton le Hole nursery school for many reasons; the nursery has been an important part of the community for 75 years. Parents shouldn't be expected to move their children, especially during Covid, when it's been their only stability especially when there's no other outstanding provision within the Hetten area.

Financially the nursery hasn't been given a fair opportunity to turn things around. There's lots of simple ways the nursery could raise money and surely the council can help? Fundraisers have raised over £3600 in a month!

Kind Regards,

From < >

Sent: 23 March 2021 09:12

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: OBJECTION Re: Proposed Closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nusery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

I write to object to the proposed closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School (hereinafter called "the nursery")

My granddaughter attends the nursery as did I and my siblings in 50's and 60's.

When deciding to submit this it was difficult to decide what to say as there are many points I could make in support of the nursery such as :

HISTORY AND COMMUNITY: the nursery has been at the heart of our community since 1945 nurturing and feeding (yes feeding!) generations of our children through times of rationing after the

2nd World War and 2 miners strikes when some families had nothing ...and it's still feeding our children today with money from its own budget receiving no extra funding for food from the Local Authority ("LA") or Together For Children ("TFC") the funding for free School meals for nursery age children has been withdrawn! At a time when many families rely on food banks... what will happen to these children if the nursery closes?

SUCCESS AND ACHIEVEMENT: the staff have worked tirelessly over the last few years to achieve and maintain their Ofsted "Outstanding" rating sending our children off to primary school well prepared socially and academically for the years ahead ...surely this should be valued and celebrated ? Especially as they are the only nursery in the area to achieve this rating.

ALTERNATIVE PROVISION: The proposed new nursery at Hetton Primary is only going to have places for 2-4 year olds 9am -3pm term time only there is no mention of care for babies or before/after school or in school holidays which is not much use to working families therefore, forcing them to use the private sector.... once the private nursery in Hetton has the monopoly it will be free to increase its charges as it will have no credible competition and the LA will not be able to do any about it ...this will cause distress to many already struggling families trying to make ends meet.... and it could mean that the new proposed nursery becomes a "white elephant" that no one will use because it doesn't provide the care they need. The LA state that there is sufficient provision locally however, when I enquired with Eppleton Academy recently I was informed that they were not admitting any new nursery pupils at the moment. There are several new homes being built in the Broomhill, Eppleton, Hetton Downs areas with a second phase planned for Broomhill where are these children going go? The LA like to promote their "Walk/cycle to School" agenda but it's a long walk to Hetton Primary especially with a toddler!

FINANCE: Yes the nusery has a deficit this is due to years of underfunding and the fact that the LA granted planning permission for the private nursery to open in direct competition hanging its own provision and staff out to dry. Apparently there is a big underspend in the Early Years budget? Why is this? Why isn't the money been allocated appropriately as required by law? It can't be saved up to be used on other projects. Morally how can the LA justify closing such a valued local resource and loosing such hard working dedicated staff for such a small deficit when it is spending 42 million building the new City Hall when it would have only cost 5 million to repair and upgrade the existing Civic Centre? Seems wrong to me and to many others no doubt.

IN CONCLUSION: I would ask the Leader and Members to consider the points raised above. I know some of you may think my comments amount to nothing more than ancient history and sentiment but this affects our community and people's lives. No doubt at the end of the day everything comes downs to money but our children deserve the best start in life. I understand that If it turns out that the nursery must close the plan is to transfer the children to the new proposed provision at Hetton Primary surely therefore, this would constitute a "Transfer of Business" and and the planned new posts at Hetton Primary should be ring fenced to existing staff at the nursery as employment law requires. This would also provide continuity of care for the transferring children some of whom may be vulnerable and have complex special needs.

Thank you

Grandmother and lifetime resident of Hetton-le-Hole

From: <>

Sent: 23 March 2021 09:16

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton-le-Hole Nursery closure

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express that I am very against the proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Nursery for the following reasons.

I have never come across a nursery which meets the needs of every child so well. The fact that the nursery has a qualified SENDco who is an early years specialist and is able to support all children who have additional needs to make outstanding progress during their time at nursery makes such a difference to the children and families who require this additional support. This level of support and expertise will not be available at any other provision and therefore this nursery really needs to remain open.

I was very concerned to find out about the LA underspend of £4 million when this consultation was underway. Why has this money not been used to support this outstanding nursery? DFE guidance says that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget. All reasons for this proposal are around financial aspects. It is very clear that the leadership of the nursery have done all that they can to maintain a healthy budget. However, the council could have used a tiny proportion of the £4 million underspend from the last 3 years to remove the deficit and provide the support required.

23rd March 2021

-----Original Message-----

From: <>

Sent: 23 March 2021 09:34

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject:

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee,

I write to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School. To close the nursery when so many young children are so severely affected emotionally and socially by the pandemic we find ourselves in, is ill timed and will compound social and emotional difficulties as well as developmental delays that face many of our younger children. The impact on children and their happiness and emotional well-being should be the first priority of the council, not finances. I ask the council to reconsider this proposal and put the children's well being first in a time when they need stability most. Outstanding nursery schools are something to be saved they provide communities like the community of Hetton with a very high standard of education and provide children in areas of deprivation with the education they need to allow them to succeed in life. Closing the nursery now would take this opportunity of an outstanding education away from children when they need it the most and when

their short lives have been affected most by covid. Please save this nursery and give our children the education to allow them the future they deserve.

Yours faithfully

From: < >

Sent: 23 March 2021 10:12

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth.Williamson@schools.Sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: OBJECTION: Proposed Closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery School

Sensitivity: Confidential

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing this email as an **objection** to the closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery School.

To say that I am disappointed by the decisions being made by Sunderland City Council is an understatement. I personally feel that since the plans were effectively 'leaked', everything has been done and orchestrated in the most underhand manner. The fact that the Hetton Le Hole councillors were unaware of the proposed closure speaks volumes and I wholeheartedly believe that Sunderland City Council initially wanted to let this fly under the radar and get through public consultation without much backlash. But as you will have seen, we as a community will fight this with passion.

The fact that there was a 92% objection rate at public consultation should show the community feeling, yet those objections appear to mean nothing to the council. And the fact that the council decided to move ahead with the statutory consultation 5 days before the pre-consultation closed speaks volumes. By doing this, not all responses could be considered.

After learning that Sunderland City Council has an underspend of £4 million, why did the council fail to provide additional funding for this nursery and other maintained nurseries to clear any outstanding deficits? The council could not even provide any Covid-19 relief funds to the nursery despite receiving millions from the government!

I am also appalled to see that the budget forecast produced by the council to justify the closure is completely inaccurate and a forecast of additional pupils will eliminate the projected deficit. The facts were also deliberately distorted relating to the uplift given to the nursery as the reason for at least one other nursery school going into deficit.

But now I want to address the most important thing in all of this, **the children** (and yes, my child attends this nursery school).

Please help me to understand how the council are willing to put the Health and Safety of young and vulnerable children at risk, by transferring them to temporary, demountable classrooms on a building site? We are already aware that there are no plans for the building the current nursery is situated at, so why on earth move them to a building site? My son attends Hetton Le Hole Nursery School because it is OUTSTANDING (and yes there was even an attempt to defunct this rating in the proposal). I looked at other nurseries before choosing Hetton Le Hole Nursery School and they simply could not compete.

The staff are amazing, the most wonderful people, who I trust with my child. The setting that the nursery sits in is wonderful, it is not right beside a very busy main road (I will also note the amount of collisions, on an exceptionally busy main road, that take place beside where you plan to build – even though it is 20mph speed limit). The grounds of our nursery are a huge selling point for parents. I knew that my son would flourish here and the staff in this nursery are testament to that. The gardens are a natural beauty, they are amazing with plenty of space, and this is in comparison to a nursery relatively close with a small outdoor area of concrete and astro-turf, not to mention the very busy road just over the fence.

To even have to write this email in the first place just breaks my heart, we cannot stand by and let this happen. The community is frustrated, upset and I am personally embarrassed by the behaviour of the council.

Please accept this email as my objection to the proposed closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery School.

-----Original Message-----

From: <>

Sent: 23 March 2021 10:43

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth.Williamson@schools.Sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: objection to closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School x

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

Dear members of the board for school organisation

I write to object to the closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School.

I am shocked to learn that Sunderland City Council propose to close the only outstanding nursery in Hetton which has been in the heart of the community since 1945. A past pupil myself I know the importance the nursery has to so many families in the Hetton area and has done for generations. I

have made life long friendships thanks to this nursery, as several of the pupils who attended at the same time as myself went onto Primary School, Secondary School, and higher education. We are still very good friends to this day.

I am equally shocked to learn that financial reasons are given for the proposed closure, namely the deficit the nursery is in, when in fact SCC had an underspend of £4 million! This maintained nursery benefits from a head teacher, teacher and SENCO, none of which are required by private nurseries. They are also subject to rigorous OFSTED inspection similar to that of primary schools again not required for primary schools.

Proposed closure of this outstanding provision mid pandemic is equally inappropriate and also is the fact that no Covid relief funds were given to this nursery. This is despite SCC relieving millions in Government funding in the pandemic.

Please keep open this excellent provision for the children.

Yours Sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 23 March 2021 10:57

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject:

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

To whom it may concern

I wish to formally object to the closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School.

My oldest son has attended since he was 9 months old , he is now 4, and my youngest has attended since September, when he was 11 months old. The main reason we selected this nursery was the Outstanding OFSTED report that it holds, being the only one in the area, the fact that it was a maintained nursery, rather than a private nursery was also a major factor.

The nursery is at the heart of the community, and has been for 75 years and the community spirit that has been shown over the last weeks to support this outstanding nursery has been overwhelming. Parents, teachers and the local community has rallied and raised over £3000 in the last weeks to support the nursery and I'm confident, and fully on board, with additionally financially supporting the nursery going forward.

The nursery is extremely flexible, as our lifestyle is quite unusual and they go above and beyond to support our needs and ensure that my 2 sons have the best experience possible. My youngest had no real social interaction due to the Covid-19 lockdowns and the nursery staff have been sensational in helping him overcome his shyness and ensure he has the best experience possible. Indeed, I saw a marked difference in the attitude and emotional state of my oldest son which only rectified when we told him he was returning to 'his nursery'. This has been my children's only stable, social interaction and a safe place for them to be in a difficult situation. Any change to their placements, especially my youngest would have, I feel, a massively detrimental effect.

The traffic situation at the proposed new nursery site is a major concern for us. There have been several accidents in recent weeks and I have little intention of placing either child in the primary school, it is not a desirable location. It is the furthest from our house and also inconvenient for our business which is in the heart of Hetton. The flexibility of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School means that we are able to leave our business for several minutes to collect both children.

In conclusion, I do not feel the parents have had a fair opportunity to discuss the proposed closure and been able to discuss the options going forward. The nursery should remain open to ensure that our children have a safe and familiar place for their pre-school education in these tumultuous times.

From: < >

Sent: 23 March 2021 11:05

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton Nursery

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

To whom it may concern

I wish to formally object to the closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School.

My oldest son has attended since he was 9 months old , he is now 4, and my youngest has attended since September, when he was 11 months old. The main reason we selected this nursery was the Outstanding OFSTED report that it holds, being the only one in the area, the fact that it was a maintained nursery, rather than a private nursery was also a major factor.

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The traffic situation at the proposed new nursery site is a major concern for us. There have been several accidents in recent weeks and I have little intention of placing either child in the primary school, it is not a desirable location. It is the furthest from our house and also inconvenient for our business which is in the heart of Hetton. The flexibility of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School means that we are able to leave our business for several minutes to collect both children.

In conclusion, I do not feel the parents have had a fair opportunity to discuss the proposed closure and been able to discuss the options going forward. The nursery should remain open to ensure that our children have a safe and familiar place for their pre-school education in these tumultuous times.

Kind regards

From: < >

Sent: 23 March 2021 12:23

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Potential Closure of Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Good afternoon,

I would like to draw your attention to my views regarding the potential closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery School.

I felt the need to email my personal views due to both my children attending the nursery previously and now my niece and nephew attend.

I am saddened and dismayed at the actions that have been brought against the nursery.

At the time when my children required nursery care – I researched and visited several nurseries and came to the decision that Hetton Le Hole Nursery offered all the necessary provision for my children by a considerable margin (despite additional travel being required)

As a full time working parent it was essential that I was offered wraparound care and holiday cover where applicable. The nursery could not have been more accommodating to me and my family.

I am strongly against the closure for a multiple of reasons but the main being my second child required SEND support throughout his time there and the assistance and support we received was nothing short of outstanding. Nothing was too much trouble for Ruth and her excellent caring staff – I am 100% sure that he would not have received the multiple agency support so regularly and the same standard of care anywhere else. In fact nothing in the new proposals assures me that children and families in similar situations will receive anywhere near that level of care we did? Can this be guaranteed?

As far as my niece and nephew (who attend currently) are concerned this closure will bring real disruption to them in an already very challenging and difficult 12 months – more disruption is the last thing children need. Again my brother chose this nursery due to my recommendation, it's outstanding Ofsted rating and it's flexibility to accommodate modern families where often 2 parents work fulltime. Can this need be accommodated elsewhere – when I researched it was a definite no. I feel this is a real step backwards for nursery care in the local area.

I also would note that the council have not supported the nursery in any form of relief funds due to the pandemic. From earlier zoom meetings I noted that the nursery has incurred over £70,000 of

Covid 19 losses – final year figures I believe were in excess of £50,000. Staff were also unable to being furloughed due to be categorised as council employees.

Should the new proposals go ahead I doubt whether the excellent skilled staff will be accommodated at Hetton Primary in new employment resulting in expertise lost in our local schools!

I would not have considered using Hetton Primary myself – especially as the children will not be benefiting from the outstanding staff currently at Hetton Le Hole Nursery and they will also be using demountable classrooms as the new build will not be ready intime – again a point I find staggering to say the least. £5 million invested on the new build yet we are debating a relatively low deficit in comparison. A huge effort has taken place to balance the accounts however regular budget cuts have made it impossible to have any financial stability. Restructures / cost cutting exercises were taking place whilst my youngest child attended. The deficit is not due to mismanagement of funds but funding decisions

I fail to see the reasoning behind closing the leading nursery in the area – which has consistently been praised for it's Ofsted achievements.

The nursery is at the centre of the town and has been for decades and it would be a travesty to see it closed

I look forward to a positive outcome for the nursery

Many thanks

-----Original Message-----

From: <>

Sent: 23 March 2021 13:19

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Fwd: Fwd: Hetton le Hole Nursery Nursery Closure

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> >

> > I object to the closure of Hetton le hole nursery school.

> > >

> > > Parents shouldn't be excepted to move their children, especially during Covid, when it's been their only stability especially when there's no other outstanding provision within Hetton. Children's mental health is vitality important and stability is needed at this crucial start in their lives!

> > >

> > > The nursery has been part of the community for over 75 years and there's no other use planned for the purpose built building.

> > >

> > > Financially the nursery hasn't been given fair Opportunity turn things round and Fundraisers have raised over £3600 in a month, with fundraising alone the inyear deficit could be wiped.

> > >

> > > The deficit is inherited- it should be wiped

> > >

> > > 50p increase per child an hour and a pupil recruitment drive are simple effective ways to make this nursery financially viable

> > >

> > > Regards

> > >

-----Original Message-----

From: < >

Sent: 23 March 2021 13:22

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le Hole Nursery Nursery Closure

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

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>>>>>

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>>>>>

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>>>>>

>>>>> 50p increase per child an hour and a pupil recruitment drive are simple effective ways to make this nursery financially viable

>>>>>

>>>>> Regards

>>>>>

From: [Head Teacher] < >

Sent: 23 March 2021 14:22

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Objection to the closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Good Afternoon

I am attaching my objection to the proposed closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School.

Kind regards,

Objection to Closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School

I am writing to register my objection of the proposed closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School.

When reading the response to the proposed closure I was struck by the high number of responses and the fact that an overwhelming majority of these disagreed with the proposed closure; there is a direct link between this and the standing the nursery school has in the community of Hetton-le-Hole; it is very important to the local community who understand the value of having such a high-quality school providing education and care for children from Birth to 4 years old in their locality.

There is substantial expertise in the staff who work in a maintained nursery school; the staff who work at Hetton-le -Hole are steeped in child development, understand in great detail the developmental pathways of our youngest children and give the children they are working with the best foundation and start to their educational journey. The government is committed to supporting Nursery Schools in England. They have repeatedly asked Local Authorities not to close nursery schools at the present time as they still finalising the way in which they are going to fund nursery schools in the future. The City of Sunderland Council could be moving to close Hetton-le-Hole only to be informed by central government that they have decided on a way to fund nursery schools which is individual to each school (and therefore will not impact on other nursery schools) and could be made at a level where a plan to reduce the deficit is achievable. **It is premature to close a maintained nursery school before this funding has been announced.**

As a resident of the City of Sunderland I would like to make the point that we should be cherishing all the maintained nursery schools that we have across the city. In my professional role, I have been a maintained nursery school Headteacher for several years, I have visited nursery schools in the UK and internationally. The maintained nursery school provision in Sunderland is a real beacon of the highest quality provision. When hosting a national conference for the organisation Early Education we were able to show delegates around the city's nursery schools; it was such a proud moment to be able to talk about our nursery schools as trailblazers and share the expertise the city has in early years. Sunderland's Nursery Schools are the jewel in the crown; they should be valued and utilised to their full potential, for example, as training and support hubs for the early years sector. Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School would be an integral part of this model and could support the development of others.

The country is going through a very difficult time at the moment; communities need support and places where they can go for help and reassurance; now is not the time to be closing an established maintained nursery school that is a valuable support network for parents and families from the local community.

Regards,

From: < >

Sent: 23 March 2021 14:25

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: hetton nursery

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Hello

Regarding the proposed closure of the Nursery in hetton, To make this nursery start to fail you allowed 2 other nurseries to start in the same area, pre meditated idea. Very sad and cruel way to close down a nursery.

My sister and myself went to this nursery way back in 1960s and I attended in early 70s. very fond memories and a brilliant start to my early learning. We both grew up and between us 4 children went there, they left for primary schools, we fostered a child and with great opposition from this childs parents I insisted that this child went to hetton nursery and she was looked after and nurtured in nursery as she was a damaged child, she was brought along brilliantly.

Now I have grandchildren and the attend the early years as one is 2 years, what a change and a godsend this nursery has been to him. His speech was poor but now hes coming out and saying more words, hes mixing great with other children, hes safe and hes secure and loves his teachers. He loves his life, he is learning from the best nursery for miles. This is why we have Ofsted would you want to send your child to second best ?

Yes there may be issues regarding the building, but allow the nursery to show you what a community can do to keep it going, don't pull the rug from under them.

Hetton is a community based area and loves the best things In it. This nursery is fighting to stay open to keep the outstanding early learning going. Let them have that chance to prove they are worth it.

From: < >

Sent: 23 March 2021 14:36

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Objection to the closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Dear members of the board for school organisation,

I write in objection to the closure of Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School. Myself and my sister attended this nursery approximately 25 years ago, my nephew who has ASD attended this nursery school a few of years ago and made rapid gains in his speech and language development and social development which I feel he wouldn't have so promptly, in preparation for reception, without Hetton-le-Hole nursery schools early years educator's expertise. My Niece currently attends this nursery school and has developed even more independence, self-awareness, resilience, and good relationships as the nursery fosters personal, social and emotional development.

I conducted my Childhood and Early Years Master's degree research at Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School. I chose this setting as it is graded 'outstanding' and it had been a part of my family for generations. I focused my masters on how pedagogy based on child-initiated play helps promote children's development and part of my findings was that the outdoor space of this nursery promoted risk taking and real-life connections and had a free flow access between indoors and outdoors compared to another nursery I did research in which was located upstairs or had limited outdoor space. An outdoor environment offers space and therefore is particularly important to those children who learn their very best through active movement and learn predominantly through sensory and physical experiences. Not all children are lucky enough to attend such a well-equipped nursery with exciting and challenging outdoor areas.

To risk the loss of this setting through inadequate funding will have wide ranging societal ramifications as the maintained nursery school offers quality early education and care within a rather deprived area of high need. Publicly funded maintained nursery schools were designed to sit alongside children's centres in a marrying function addressing a national political commitment to eradicated poverty by 2020 (Solvason, Webb & Sutton-Tsang, 2020). The broader remit is that Hetton-Le-Hole Nursery School alleviates and mitigates the effects of disadvantage and poverty.

Pulling the rug from under the nursery during a pandemic adds insult to injury. This maintained nursery school has been the fourth emergency service. During the coronavirus pandemic Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School proved once again its value to our community, while many private settings were forced to close this nursery absorbed the additional pressure by remaining open for vulnerable children and key workers. The staff at Hetton-le-Hole nursery school want to give the most disadvantaged children the best start in life and are committed to providing a life changing start for children. They have seen families go through some terrible times especially during the pandemic but they were there along the way. It might have just been a smile in the morning or actually supporting and listening to parents needs in the evening at close of day. It's like building a house, we need to get the early years foundation stage right so that future learning isn't damaged.

Far from closing this nursery you should be deciding a future financial settlement and agree and implement a long-term formula for funding. Sunderland City Council needs to give money to buy specialist early years resources, for building maintenance, to provide even more training to already highly skilled staff and provide emergency funding for costs incurred due to covid19. Lose the nursery and you lose a vital part of economic infrastructure. There is also a fiscal value added by this nursery in supporting the learning of disadvantaged children experiencing SEND issues, families with preschool children in need or in crisis (Solvason, Webb & Sutton-Tsang, 2020).

A rational system would make best use of the highest quality provision that already exists for the most disadvantaged in need children as a beacon of good practice excellence for the sector as a whole, instead you are allowing our finest early years provision to be lost in the interest of short-term economic savings. Recognise and champion the history, accumulated knowledge and expertise contained in Hetton-le-Hole nursery school. The action to close the nursery during a pandemic is either unwarranted negligence or its an unknowledgeable oversight to see the nurseries excellence.

Recommended reading:

Solvason, C., Webb, R. and Sutton-Tsang, S. (2020). "What is left...?", the implication of losing maintained nursery schools for vulnerable children in England', *Children & Society*. Pp.1-15. Available at: <http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/id/eprint/91160/> or <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/chso.12391>

Yours Sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 23 March 2021 16:09

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Objection to closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee,

We write to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School. To close the nursery when so many young children are so severely affected emotionally and socially by the pandemic we find ourselves in, is ill timed and will compound social and emotional difficulties as well as developmental delays that face many of our younger children. The impact on children and their happiness and emotional well-being should be the first priority of the council, not finances.

We ask the council to reconsider this proposal and put the children's well being first in a time when they need stability most.

Outstanding nursery schools are something to be saved they provide communities like the community of Hetton with a very high standard of education and provide children in areas of deprivation with the education they need to allow them to succeed in life.

Closing the nursery now would take this opportunity of an outstanding education away from children when they need it the most and when their short lives have been affected most by covid. Please save this nursery and give our children the education to allow them the future they deserve.

Yours sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 23 March 2021 16:19

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School Closure Proposal

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Hi,

I am writing to you to **object** to the proposal to close Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School. The reasons for my objection are outlined below:

- The nursery is currently the only setting in Hetton-le-Hole which is graded outstanding. As a professional who also works in education, I appreciate the amount of work that goes into education of that quality. I can't believe that this proposal is even happening when teaching at this nursery was described as 'extremely strong'. To close this nursery would result in invaluable expertise and experienced and passionate educators being lost to Hetton-le-Hole, which in turn would impact families and the wider community. The quality of education must not matter to decision-makers.
- We are currently in the midst of a global pandemic, which has negatively affected everyone. The school has remained open to key workers, even during the most recent lockdown offering a place of security and continuity for children and parents. Why disrupt the staff and families lives more?
- I think it is terrible that the staff are losing their jobs during this time, where jobs are harder to come by. Ringfenced jobs were promised, and then taken away, so valuable expertise that those staff have are inevitably lost to the area. The staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that the children make outstanding progress from their individual starting points. Why close a nursery which has the children at the heart of everything they do?
- The pre-consultation showed that 92% of respondents did not agree with the council's proposal so why then did it go to the formal consultation? This shows the total disregard for the views of the community. The nursery is highly valued, and will continue to be!
- Parents have worked to fundraise for the school and this is now over £3000. They have formulated plans with leaders to help address the school's large deficit but these have not

been entertained by decision makers. Can the school not have extra time to turn this around before the decision for closure is made?

- The nursery has endured year on year budget cuts which have made it immensely difficult for it to operate and be financially stable. There have been restructures, and the Headteacher has taken on numerous roles in order to save money. Furthermore, the nursery received no Covid relief funding that was allocated from central government which I understand was in the range of millions. The nursery incurred £76,000 of losses due to COVID-19.

To summarise, I think it would be terrible to close this well established and successful nursery so quickly during these troubling times. The council should be trying to protect this nursery, it's families and the staff. This whole situation is very unsettling, and I hope that decision-makers will fully consider the views of the community before making a decision.

Kind regards,

From: < >

Sent: 23 March 2021 16:20

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth Williamson <Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk>

Subject: Response to the Proposed Closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

To whom it may concern,

My name is Amy Brennan and I am currently employed as Senior Lead/ Designated Safeguarding Deputy at Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School. I am writing to you today to express my deepest sadness and objection to the formal proposal to close my school.

I started my time at Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School as a student in 2012 and was employed following my college placement. When I started as a student, my little boy was already attending Hetton Lyons Nursery School, where I had also volunteered previously to my placement at Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School. I quickly discovered that the education and care at Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is second to none and from then on I chose to place my own son within Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School for holiday care. The care and education he received from the staff was outstanding. He loved his time there and still has many fond memories nine years on.

I must express the detrimental effect that this whole consultation process has had on not only my mental health but that of my son's too, worrying his mother is no longer going to have a job to provide for him. I am appalled that the Local Authority have railroaded this process through, despite being in the middle of a global pandemic. There has been very little consideration to staff, yet we are expected to carry on as normal, continuing our usual high standards of service. The staff's mental health has been overlooked completely by the

council and this is extremely disappointing. The communication from the council during this process has also been less than desirable. Is this the thanks we get as key workers continuing to provide an outstanding service to the community during the Covid-19 pandemic?

I am also planning to extend my family and I will be sending my child to Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School, as it is the only outstanding nursery in Hetton. My knowledge and expertise allow me to have a clear insight into the best possible care and education for my children, and unfortunately there is no other provision that will meet my expectations as a mother.

As a resident of Hetton, I am bitterly disappointed that the Local Authority are gunning to close an outstanding early years provision, which has been at the heart of the community for the last 76 years. The local community, parents, staff and the local Hetton Councillors have put their hearts and souls into saving our school and this is evident through the fantastic fund raising that has taken place lately. Over £3000 has been raised by the dedicated parents and community, and the petition against the closure of our nursery to date has 1,679 signatures. Does this sound like a nursery school the local community of Hetton want to lose? There also appears to have been a lack of consideration of the views of the community by the Local Authority. It clearly states in DfE guidance (November 2019) that decision makers should give the greatest weight from the stakeholders who are most directly affected by a proposal, especially parents of the affected school. Our pre-consultation response received 514 responses, 92% of which directly opposed the proposal. It appears like this pre-consultation was a box ticking exercise, with the views not fully considered. Why was the consultation taken to formal proceedings with such a high level of opposition? Are the views of the local community not valued?

Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is the only early years provision that is graded as outstanding by Ofsted in Hetton-le-Hole. No other setting can currently match the standard of the provision provided, due to this. The Headteacher has extensive knowledge and I have witnessed first-hand the improvements that she has made since she took over the role. Her knowledge as a Special Education Needs and Disability Coordinator (SENDco) allows the best possible support and adaptations for children who have additional needs, to make outstanding progress during their time at Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School.

The children and parents who attend Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School have already suffered immensely as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and absolutely do not need this type of upheaval. Some families have lost income by being furloughed, while others have lost their jobs completely during this pandemic. They do not need the added stress of losing the one consistent thing during the past year, their child's school. I can only begin to imagine how it must feel to be a parent who is possibly looking towards being forced out of their chosen educational setting. As a parent I would be heartbroken, not to mention how many little lives will be affected if the decision is made to close. Children have not seen many of their family members for over a year, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, family friends included. They have spent every week day with us consistently over the past year. For many, we are the only adults outside of their home that they have seen and attending our nursery has been the only opportunity for children to socialise with other children. Our

nursery is their familiar. Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is their constant. To them, we are their family and they are ours.

I understand the Local Authority have the view that the nursery school is not financially viable. However, the Local Authority has not provided any Covid-19 relief funds to the nursery despite having received many millions of pounds from central government. The nursery has incurred £76,000 of Covid-19 losses this year, however despite this; the closing deficit (in year) was £58,449. Staff were also unable to be furloughed due to us being council employees.

Alan Rowan stated in the first initial meeting with staff that this is, ***“All about money.”*** yet there is an underspend of over £4million in early years across the City of Sunderland. Why can't money from this underspend be put towards keeping an outstanding provision open? This money is the children's from central government, yet they have been deprived of it. Alan Rowan also explained about the new provision that was to be built at Hetton Primary and it was made extremely clear to staff that both proposals were very much done deals and would work hand-in-hand together.

Also in the first initial meeting, Alan Rowan stated that there would be, ***“At least eight jobs.”*** for staff from Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School at the new Hetton Primary provision and talked about slotting staff and 'TUPE' staff from the nursery straight to the new provision.

The following information is taken from the Together for Children Organisational Change Policy September 2020:

7.2 In most cases posts will be filled utilising slotting in and ring-fencing during a first round of recruitment:

- **Slotting in**, without the need to go through a recruitment process, shall apply where there has been no significant change in the duties and responsibilities of a post following restructuring and where the number of posts available is equal to or in excess of the number of existing post holders. To qualify for this treatment a post must be of the same grade before and after restructuring, with no other member having an accepted comparable claim to be considered for the post.
- **Ring-fencing** of applications for posts will apply where the previous structure contained posts that carried substantially the same duties and responsibilities but the number of staff exceeds the number of posts available in the new structure, or where there are similarities between old and new posts but with significant differences that do not make them suitable for slotting in.

Part 3 – TUPE

19 What is TUPE?

19.1 TUPE refers to the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations. The main purpose of the TUPE regulations is to preserve continuity of

employment and to safeguard the employment rights of all employees whose employment transfers to another employer as a result of a relevant transfer e.g. a transfer to an academy trust as a result of a conversion of a maintained school or the transfer of catering staff to a new catering provider.

19.2 The TUPE regulations were first introduced in 1981 to protect workers involved in transfers. They were introduced to comply with the European Community Directives covering the transfer of employees. The 1981 regulations were replaced in 2006 by the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006.

19.3 The 2006 regulations were then supplemented in 2014, but not replaced, by 'The Collective Redundancies and Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (Amendment) Regulations 2014. References to the "TUPE regulations" should therefore be taken as referring to both the main 2006 and supplementary 2014 regulations.

19.4 The Regulations contain specific provisions to protect employees from dismissal before or after a relevant transfer.

19.5 Representatives of affected employees have a right to be informed about a prospective transfer. They must also be consulted about any measures which the transferor or transferee employer envisages taking concerning the affected employees.

19.6 The Regulations also place a duty on the current employer to provide information about the transferring workforce to the new employer no later than 28 days before the transfer occurs.

20 When does TUPE apply?

20.1 Subject to certain qualifying conditions, the TUPE regulations apply:

- (a)** when a business or undertaking, or part of one, is transferred to a new employer; or
- (b)** when a 'service provision change' takes place (for example, where a contractor takes on a contract to provide a service for a client from another contractor).

These two circumstances are jointly categorised as 'relevant transfers'.

20.2 Those employees employed immediately prior to the transfer will automatically transfer on their terms and conditions to the new employer under the TUPE regulations. The new employer takes over responsibility for the transferring employees and inherits most liabilities in relation to employment related matters. The transferring employees retain their continuity of service for the purpose of both statutory and contractual employment rights.

Since then, staff have been told they cannot TUPE across to Hetton Primary, but jobs will be ring-fenced to us. Staff have been constantly fed sporadic numbers of jobs available for 'ring-fencing' at the new provision at Hetton Primary, starting from eight available jobs, to five, back to eight and then more recently three, which is including a teacher position, meaning only two available positions for nursery practitioners. This is somewhat different from the eight positions Alan Rowan had pledged to staff. However, despite being provided with this information, during the Hetton Primary cabinet meeting on Thursday 11th March 2021, Nichola Hill (Headteacher) implied that there are in-fact no jobs to be ring-fenced as she has a staff which are qualified to work in their new provision. If there is an opportunity for limited staff to gain employment at Hetton Primary, it will not be all, especially the leaders at Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School, so expertise will be lost.

The DFE guidance states that maintained nursery schools should not be closed solely because of a deficit budget position. If this is the case, why are our Local Authority proposing to close our nursery because of a deficit position?

Beatrice Merrick, the Chief Executive of Early Education, and a consultant working with the DFE, who is in regular contact with the Sunderland Nursery Headteacher Group, has stated:

“Government has made a clear commitment to continued funding, so although there has been uncertainty from year to year for the last 4 years, going forward there should be confidence that there will be additional funding for maintained nursery schools as an integral part of the funding formula. I am speaking to the DfE lead on nursery school funding tomorrow afternoon and will find out then whether they expect to make an announcement before Christmas or whether this will be in January, but we do expect significant change in how the funding will be distributed from 2021-22 to address the historic inequalities, and this has the potential to help Sunderland as a historically less well funded LA.”

It is my understanding that the Local Authority is allocating in excess of £5 million on a new build. However, it is states in the consultation report that there are further funds which will required to cover ICT, furniture and demolition. Why not utilise the current nursery building, which is already established? This is estimated to be in the region of £2-£12million. I find it very hard to believe that a deficit could not be cleared by the council, but millions of pounds can be spent on the new build. The leaders and governors have worked hard to balance the budget, albeit in very difficult circumstances.

I have learned that there is asbestos in Hetton Primary and this is a concern. Furthermore, the idea of children being taught in demountable classrooms is worrying especially when it is for a full academic year. Furthermore, the council hasn't yet shared their financial comparisons for running the nursery until 2022 and the costings for temporary classrooms.

Maintained Nursery Schools are required to provide high quality early years education. This is lead by specialist headteachers, qualified teachers and early years educators. These schools tend to be in areas of deprivation and have a sole focus on families for their work.

Following the fall of Children's Centres due to funding cuts, Maintained Nursery Schools took up that role too. Surely we can't let those vulnerable families down by closing the nursery too.

Why is Hetton-le-Hole Nursery being singled out in this proposal? The implications of the Early Years funding formula are now having an impact across the wider Maintained Nursery School sector. It is detailed in financial Benchmarking data that in the last two years that the amount of Maintained Nursery Schools in Sunderland ending the year with a deficit is on the increase. In 2018-19 four out of eight ended the year with a deficit in-year balance, and in 2019-20 this increased to five out of eight. Funding reserves are continuing to diminish and Maintained Nursery Schools are enduring funding shortfalls each year. This is most certainly very concerning. Any decisions made by the Local Authority regarding the closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School is likely to be premature, and a resulting closure of the Nursery school would lead to lack of sufficient high-quality early years education in the Hetton-le-Hole area.

Within government guidance for opening and closing maintained schools it is made clear that the case for closure needs to be strong for the proposal for closing a Maintained Nursery School. The proposer should:

1. plans to develop alternative early years provision clearly demonstrating that it will be at least equal in quantity and quality to the provision provided by the nursery school with no loss of expertise and specialism; and
2. the replacement provision is more accessible and more convenient for local parents.

I feel like proposal does not meet either of these points. There are no other Ofsted outstanding provisions in Hetton, therefore equal provision of quantity and quality is impossible. The loss of the Baby Room further contributes to this and due to the lack of posts available for the leaders of this provision, the expertise is undoubtedly lost. Parents have spoken on numerous occasions about their safety concerns, particularly Moorsley Road, and that the new provision at Hetton Primary is not accessible to them. As a resident of Hetton, who will be directly affected by the increase in traffic, I can fully appreciate how this is a concern for parents.

In summary, as a mother, member of the community and as a member of the outstanding team at Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School, I am in objection, and would urge the Local Authority to reconsider their proposal.

Regards

Designated Safeguarding Deputy/ Senior Leader

Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School

----- Forwarded message -----

From: < >

To: schoolsorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk <schoolsorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>;
Ruth.Williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk <ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk>

Sent: Sunday, 21 March 2021, 12:22:41 GMT

Subject: Hetton Nursery Closure

To whom it may concern,

I feel I have to write this letter as I strongly object to the closure of our outstanding nursery. My daughter went to Hetton nursery and I now drop my grandchildren off there as my daughter works. She works in early years herself but chose to send her twins to Hetton. I live just a 5 minute walk from nursery which is better for them, instead I would have to drive to another nursery, meaning more traffic on the already busy stretch of road.

I can't believe you are prepared to close an outstanding nursery and put my grandchildren into porta cabins for a year until the new one is built, where is the logic?

I know our nursery is in a deficit, but if council could clear it and allow the nursery to carry on then I'm positive the nursery could and would be able to sustain itself in the future, and we all know you have the funds to do it!

Please think long and hard before you close our nursery which is a lifeline to many of the children and parents who use it.

You are meant to care and protect our little ones futures, not put it into turmoil.

Regards

From: < >

Sent: 23 March 2021 16:36

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: Ruth.Williamson@schools.Sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Objection to the closure of Hetton Le Hole Nursery School

*****This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 *****

Dear members of the board for school organisation

I write to object to the closure of Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School.

I am saddened to learn that Sunderland City Council propose this Ofsted rated Outstanding Early Years Setting, more so because whilst we are mid pandemic.

My daughter attends currently and my elder son previously. My daughter enjoys and learns each day at nursery whilst my son benefited from the SEN expertise greatly, following being diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. I cannot understand why SCC would wish to remove an outstanding education setting from our children and offer alternative arrangements at Hetton Primary new build in the form of temporary porta cabins. Parents will be forced to choose between this or other

private nurseries in Hetton which are not required to have in place Head Teacher, Teacher, SENCO nor be subject to the same rigorous Ofsted inspections that maintained nursery schools are. Expertise will be lost.

I am appalled to learn that SCC has an underspend of £4 million yet cite financial deficit as reasoning to propose Hetton-le-Hole Nursery. The Nursery has been loved by children and families since 1945 and the nursery is irreplaceable.

DfE guidance states that it should be presumed that proposers would favour not closing maintained nursery schools also that reason for closure should not be solely due to financial deficit. It also states that an alternative that is more accessible and convenient and there should be no loss of expertise. I object on the basis also that these conditions are not met. Replacement is porta cabins at Hetton Primary which will lose expertise and will only cater for ages 2 plus thus losing baby provision.

SCC has failed to listen to stakeholders, closing pre consultant five days prior to scheduled finish thus taking away those days for the public to voice their views. Despite around 500 objections SCC ignored this and pushed through to final stages of consultation, ignoring the will of the people.

I urge you to overturn your decision to close, and instead to save Hetton-le-Hole Nursery School.

Yours Sincerely

From: < >

Sent: 23 March 2021 16:38

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruth.williamson@schools.sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Nursery Closure Objection

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For the attention of the members of the school organisation committee,

I am writing to object to the closure of Hetton le Hole Nursery School.

Closing this nursery in the midst of a pandemic where so many young children are already severely affected emotionally and socially, is ill timed and will impact on the children socially and emotionally, affecting their happiness and emotional well-being. Surely that should be the main priority of the council, not cutting costs at such a pivotal time.

I ask the council to reconsider this proposal and put the children's well being first in a time when they need stability most. Outstanding nursery schools are something to be saved, they provide communities like the community of Hetton with a very high standard of education and provide children in areas of deprivation with the education they need to allow them to succeed in

life. Closing the nursery now would take this opportunity of an outstanding education away from children when they need it the most and when their short lives have been affected most by covid.

Please save this nursery and give the children an education that will allow them to achieve the future they deserve and the chance to better the community alongside it.

Yours sincerely

-----Original Message-----

From: <>

Sent: 23 March 2021 16:43

To: School Organisation <schoolorganisation@sunderland.gov.uk>

Cc: ruthwilliamson@sunderland.gov.uk

Subject: Hetton le hole nursery objection

***This message originates from outside your organisation. Do not provide login or password details. Do not click on links or attachments unless you are sure of their authenticity. If in doubt, email 'Ask.ICT@Sunderland.gov.uk' or call 561 5000 ***

>>

>> I object to the closure of Hetton le hole nursery school.

>>

>> Parents shouldn't be expected to move their children, especially during Covid, when it's been their only stability especially when there's no other outstanding provision within Hetton. Children should have the right to access provision within the local area and to feel safe and secure in a known environment.

>>

>> The nursery has been part of the community for over 75 years and there's no other use planned for the purpose built building.

>>

>> Financially the nursery hasn't been given fair Opportunity turn things round and Fundraisers have raised over £3600 in a month, with fundraising alone the inyear deficit could be wiped.

>>

>> The deficit is inherited- it should be wiped

>>

>> 50p increase per child an hour and a pupil recruitment drive are simple effective ways to make this nursery financially viable

>>

>> Regards

