

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

PROPOSAL TO CLOSE RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES AT MAPLEWELL HALL SCHOOL, WOODHOUSE EAVES

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended by the Education Act 2011) and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that Leicestershire County Council of County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RF proposes to make a prescribed alteration to Maplewell Hall School (LA maintained special school), Woodhouse Eaves, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 8QY from Monday, 27th August 2018.

1. Name, address and contact details of proposer

Leicestershire County Council, School Organisation Service, Children and Family Services, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RF Tel: 0116 3050970 or 0116 3056661 Email: SchoolOrgService@leics.gov.uk
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2. Name, address and category of school

Maplewell Hall School (LA maintained special school), Woodhouse Eaves, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE12 8QY
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3. Description of alteration and evidence of demand

Leicestershire County Council is proposing to remove and close the residential facilities which are located at Maplewell Hall Special School for its pupils' use. There are currently 20 beds available for residential use by pupils however there are no pupils placed at Maplewell Hall School who are assessed as having a need for educational residential provision stated in their Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP). It is proposed that the removal of residential provision will take effect as of 27 August 2018.

4. Objectives

The Council's High Needs Block (HNB) budget is provided solely for the purpose of providing education for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The residential boarding provision is currently being used for the purpose of children's social care needs, including respite care or short breaks, which should be funded by the social care budget rather than the HNB budget. There is currently significant pressure on the HNB budget and the closure of the residential facilities will allow savings to be made and funding to be directed to other areas of increased demand and greater priority as appropriate, recognising the range of pupils with SEND across the County. The removal of residential provision by September 2018 will allow time for appropriate support to be put in

place (where assessed to be required) for families/pupils affected by the change.

5. The effect on other schools, academies and educational establishments within the area

There will be no effect on other schools, academies and educational establishments within the area as no other schools within the County catering for pupils with special educational needs, including those educating children with profound and multiple difficulties, has been provided with funding which is being used for funding residential facilities.

6. Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved

The residential facility at Maplewell Hall is funded from the High Needs Block (HNB) of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). This budget overspent by £2 million in 2016/17. The £63 million budget is forecast to overspend again in 2017/18 by £1 million. This is despite an approved increase in the budget of £2.8 million. To date these overspends have been met from a withdrawal from DSG reserves. This is unlikely to be possible after next year as reserves will be depleted.

It is anticipated that the removal of the residential provision at Maplewell Hall would contribute to the achievement of the savings required to reduce the overspend on the HNB. The full year savings will be £293,000. For the 2018/19 financial year, assuming removal of the facilities from September 2018, the partial saving is projected at £170,900.

7. Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

The closure of the residential facilities from the start of the 2018/19 school year will allow time for appropriate support to be put in place (where assessed to be required) for families/pupils affected by the change.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending them to School Organisation Service, Children and Family Services, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RF or by email to SchoolOrgService@leics.gov.uk

The closing date for comments and objections is Monday 12th February 2018.

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Signed: *Lauren Haslam, Director of Law and Governance*

Date: *Monday, 15th January 2018*