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East Dunbartonshire Council

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EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL: 22 JUNE 2023

EPB/091/23/GB:

DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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SUBJECT TITLE:

STATUTORY CONSULTATION: PROPOSALS
FOR THE RELOCATION OF THE SECONDARY
WELLBEING SUPPORT SERVICE FROM
DONALDSON STREET TO SOUTHBANK
ROAD, KIRKINTILLOCH**1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this Report is to seek approval to commence the statutory consultation on the proposals for the relocation of the Secondary Wellbeing Support Service from its current location at Donaldson Street, Kirkintilloch to an enhanced nurturing location based in Southbank Road, Kirkintilloch (**Appendix 1**).

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:

- 2.1 approves the request to undertake a statutory consultation on the proposals for the relocation of the Secondary Wellbeing Support Service from Donaldson Street to Southbank Road, Kirkintilloch; and
- 2.2 instructs the Interim Chief Education Officer to carry out the statutory consultation on the relocation of the Secondary Wellbeing Support Service to the new location based in Southbank Road, Kirkintilloch.

ANN DAVIE
DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

3.0 BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 3.1** Within the Council, children's needs are assessed within a structure of Staged Intervention. All learners on Stage 1 have their needs met in the mainstream setting. Learners on Stage 2 have their needs met through additional resources such as Enhanced Learning Resources based in localities. Learners on Stage 3 require support from professionals outwith their own school setting, which includes Woodland View School and the Primary and Secondary Wellbeing Resource Centres.
- 3.2** Additional support needs (ASN) are co-ordinated in schools by the ASN Coordinator. When needs require co-ordination by more than one agency, the Education Service Central Team is often involved in providing that support.
- 3.3** While most children will have their needs met within their school, some children require more intensive support. One of the resources that is used for secondary age pupils is the Secondary Wellbeing Service.
- 3.4** The current Secondary Wellbeing Support Service provides support for these young people in its current location at Donaldson Street, Kirkintilloch. However, recent reviews have highlighted that this building is no longer fit for purpose. It is proposed that the Service is relocated to an enhanced nurturing location based in Southbank Road, Kirkintilloch.
- 3.5** In line with requirements in the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 (amended 2009), the Council has a duty to make adequate and efficient provision for the additional support of each child and young person with additional support needs for whose education they are responsible.
- 3.6** The Service will continue to operate as it currently does, but with enhanced resources and in a better location to serve the needs of the young people. In order to relocate/reprovision the service, a statutory consultation is required, and this will be carried out by the School Planning & Improvement Team once approval at Council is granted.
- 3.7** The details of the consultation and timescales are noted below:
- August/September 2023 - Public Meeting to be held
 - September 2023 - Close of Consultation Period
 - September/October 2023 - Education Scotland produces report on educational aspects of proposal
 - September/October - Council publishes consultation report

The decision to proceed with the proposal would then be agreed at a future Council meeting.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

The implications for the Council are as undernoted.

- 4.1 Frontline Service to Customers - None
- 4.2 Workforce (including any significant resource implications) - None
- 4.3 Legal Implications – Statutory consultation to be performed
- 4.4 Financial Implications - None
- 4.5 Procurement – None
- 4.6 ICT – None
- 4.7 Corporate Assets – None
- 4.8 Equalities Implications - None
- 4.9 Sustainability - None
- 4.10 Other - None

5.0 MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The risks and control measures relating to this Report are as follows:-

- 5.1 Failure to carry out the consultation in accordance with the statutory provisions would impact on the proposed move not going ahead.

6.0 IMPACT

- 6.1 **ECONOMIC GROWTH & RECOVERY** - None
- 6.2 **EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS** - None
- 6.3 **CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE** – Young people will benefit from an enhanced learning provision and outdoor space.
- 6.4 **SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES** - None
- 6.5 **ADULT HEALTH & WELLBEING** - None
- 6.6 **OLDER ADULTS, VULNERABLE PEOPLE & CARERS** – None
- 6.7 **CLIMATE CHANGE** - None
- 6.8 **STATUTORY DUTY** - due to the proposed relocation of the service, a statutory consultation is required.

7.0 POLICY CHECKLIST

7.1 This Report has been assessed against the Policy Development Checklist and has been classified as being an operational report and not a new policy or change to an existing policy document.

8.0 APPENDICES

8.1 **Appendix 1** – Consultation Proposal Paper.

East Dunbartonshire Council: Education People & Business**Education Statutory Consultation on the relocation of the provision for Secondary Wellbeing Support Service (SWSS) to Southbank Road, Kirkintilloch.****1.0 Background**

- 1.1. East Dunbartonshire Council Education Service aims to deliver excellence, equity and inclusion, ensuring that all young people have the same opportunities to succeed in educational outcomes, wider achievements, positive leaver destinations and life chances.
- 1.2. The Secondary Wellbeing Support Service (SWSS) is a non-denominational, co-educational resource, established in 2015. The Service provides a wide range of supported and personalised learning in a safe, nurturing environment. Through a wellbeing-centred approach, the Service provides young people with the space, strategies and opportunities they need to continue to access learning and fulfil their personal and academic potential.
- 1.3. The SWSS provides support to young people in S1 to S6, who have become disengaged with Education, and do not attend their mainstream school (Emotional Based School Absence, EBSA). The young people attending the service do so for a variety of reasons, including learning and wellbeing barriers that may impact on their mental health and ability to fully engage in education.
- 1.4. The SWSS works with parents/carers, and a variety of partners, to re-engage the young people in education to enable them to re-engage with their mainstream school. However, if a young person is experiencing significant learning and wellbeing barriers and is unable to attend their mainstream school, the SWSS can continue their education through the relevant qualifications and onto positive destinations.
- 1.5. The SWSS currently occupies a two-storey building in Donaldson Street, Kirkintilloch. A review of the existing provision was carried out. As a result of the review, the Education and Assets Service are of the view that the current premises and location is no longer suitable for the SWSS.
- 1.6. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 details clear requirements in line with Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). This informs how services should be restructured, ensuring that children and families are central to decisions and that professionals provide co-ordinated support where needed.
- 1.7. The focus on developing all aspects of wellbeing while also ensuring best value requires a strategic review of the current provision. This will ensure that services are designed around children and families and that the Council is therefore better able to deliver on the Single Outcome Agreement.

- 1.8. The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act (2004) places a statutory requirement on the education authority to identify and address additional support needs that could be barriers to learning for children and young people. The Act recognises that there are a wide variety of reasons a child may require additional support to reach their full potential.

2.0 Reason for the Consultation

- 2.1. The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 requires the education authority to conduct a statutory consultation under a number of circumstances, one of which is that there is a proposal to relocate a school or part of a school.
- 2.2. This consultation is in relation to the proposal to relocate the SWSS a distance of 0.3 miles from its current location in Donaldson Street, Kirkintilloch, to an enhanced nurturing location based in Southbank Road, Kirkintilloch. This proposal will affect the small number of pupils who currently attend the SWSS, as well as any future pupils who may access the Service to support their learning and wellbeing needs.

3.0 Current Provision

- 3.1. Within East Dunbartonshire, the needs of children and young people are assessed within a structure of Staged Intervention:
- Stage 1 Learners have their needs met in class.
 - Stage 2 Learners have their needs met with additional resource.
 - Stage 3 Learners require support from professionals out with a mainstream setting.
- 3.2. Children and young people with significant social and emotional barriers to wellbeing and learning (Stage 3) require specialist support to ensure their needs are met. Occasionally the Team around the Child will request that such support takes place out with the mainstream provision. Young people may require this support on both a part and full-time basis, as well as for short and long-term periods.

Currently, the SWSS provides both part-time and full-time placements, either on a short or long-term basis

- 3.3. However, the recent review found that the lack of internal space, outdoor space, dining and space to mix with peers renders the current SWSS location unsuitable to meet the needs of young people. In addition, the building requires significant adaptation to ensure the Service continues to deliver in a safe and nurturing environment.

- 3.4. Often, young people attending this service experience a range of wellbeing barriers, including attachment. Their needs can best be met by providing them with a high-quality nurturing environment. Highly trained staff, an appropriate environment and a well-planned transition to the mainstream setting are all crucial elements in the success of nurturing principles and approaches.
- 3.5. The current facilities within the SWSS restrict the capacity of staff to offer a fully nurturing placement. These restrictions are principally due to the physical limitations of the environment.

The current building also restricts some users with physical disabilities from accessing the Service. The building is located over two storeys with one staircase. There is no lift, which impacts on the building being accessible.

- 3.6. The Service is currently used by 29 young people, ranging from S1 to S6.

4.0 Proposals for the development of an Enhanced Nurture Base

- 4.1. To meet the needs of learners experiencing significant barriers to learning more effectively, it is proposed that the SWSS is relocated to an enhanced nurturing location based in Southbank Road, Kirkintilloch, 0.3 miles from its current location.
- 4.2. The proposed site previously housed the Registration Offices & Job Evaluation Service for the Council. With the Registration Service moving to the local, centralised Hubs and the Job Evaluation Service working within another office, the site is currently vacant, and is a more suitable location for the SWSS.
- 4.3. The building at Southbank Road provides accommodation on one level, as well as an outdoor space, whilst remaining secure and away from the main flow of traffic. The building provides accessibility for all, in compliance with the Equality Act 2010.

It is a more modern building, compared with the current location, and allows for better facilities, including a dedicated teaching kitchen, enhanced internet connectivity, dedicated employee areas, storage facilities, as well as access to facilities management from the nearby Early Learning Centre.
- 4.4. The Service will also benefit from an increase in the number of classroom space (by one classroom) to provide five classrooms in total.
- 4.5. Ventilation will be improved in the new building, as will heating and access to natural light by means of an increased number of good-sized windows.

- 4.6. The site benefits from dedicated car parking spaces for both employees and visitors, which are lacking in the current location. A bicycle shed will also be located within the new site, which will provide secure bicycle storage for employees and pupils who cycle to the provision. This is not available in the current building. This will support the SWSS to reduce its overall carbon footprint.
- 4.7. The new building will reduce the reliance on water filtration systems and water fountains.
- 4.8. In brief, the proposal will incorporate the following key elements:
- Refurbishment/refit of site to better suit the needs of current and future SWSS users;
 - Consultation with all stakeholders as per timeline (section 5);
 - Commencement of a programme of self-evaluation and professional learning by school staff;
 - Communication with all current and future stakeholders: brochure and web; and
 - Renaming of the service will also be carried out through a separate consultation.

5.0 Educational Benefits

5.1. General Benefits

The overall aim of the SWSS is to re-engage the young people with education, to allow them to re-enter mainstream schooling or progress to positive destinations. The environment in which this happens is crucially important.

By providing a new, enhanced nurturing environment, the educational benefits to the young people cannot be under-estimated.

Some young people who are supported with enhanced nurture require intensive, full-time placements. The facilities within the proposed site would enable pupils accessing the SWSS to have full-time placements to fulfil their entitlement to a broad, general education within a highly supportive secure environment. The move to the new building will also expand access to the curriculum, and offer an increase in subjects, as well as continuing to enable the young people to undertake Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) examinations if they do not re-engage with their mainstream school.

The learning environment would be designed to fulfil nurture requirements. There would be a functioning kitchen, a dining area, work area and free space area in each room. An assessment will be undertaken to establish whether the existing toilets require to be remodelled to suit user needs. Access to the building is currently secure, however any adaptations required to secure internal spaces will be made. These core elements being in place would enhance the likelihood of successful interventions for the young people following nurture work.

The new location will provide additional properly partitioned accommodation which will allow the Service to offer a wider curriculum. There will be increased opportunities for personal development of the young people through the provision of a teaching kitchen, improved digital technologies, outdoor space, and a building fit for purpose.

A more modern building will provide a boost to the young people's confidence, which in turn, leads to improved self-esteem, better attendance at school and wider achievements.

The new location will enhance provision and support improved attendance, engagement, attainment, achievement, positive destinations and life chances. This in turn will increase the likelihood of young people re-engaging with their mainstream school. The new environment will enhance opportunities to develop skills for life, learning and work.

5.2. Classroom / Office Space

All classrooms in the new building will be properly partitioned, providing better classroom space for the young people. There will be sufficient ventilation provided as well as increased sources of natural lighting.

Dedicated office and social spaces will provide the employees with a safe secure space of their own. This will help with the mental health of the employees, as well as their ability to better prepare lessons for the young people.

There will be specific storage areas for all equipment and resources, including a dedicated locked SQA cupboard within the Team Leader's office.

5.3. Alongside intensive nurture work, young people will be able to access the core aspects of the curriculum with much greater ease. Young people with certain additional needs for support are known to progress well with their learning in an environment with a lower adult/child ratio. The curriculum can be personalised with appropriate levels of support and challenge. The curriculum can be made much more coherent and relevant and more motivating for learners.

5.4. There will be one additional classroom compared with the current setting. This will allow additional curriculum areas to be taught on site, further expanding the young people's learning experiences.

5.5. A dedicated teaching kitchen will provide opportunities far beyond what is available at the current location.

5.6. Outdoor space

Outdoor space is lacking in the current building.

By providing a secure outdoor space, the young people can access outdoor learning and wellbeing.

The young people will not only be able to see science in action but will also learn key life skills through the gardening opportunities that will open up with the outdoor space.

5.7. Digital Technologies

Access to digital technology will be superior within the new building, including access to internet and on-line learning platforms.

Having better digital access allows the Service to link with mainstream schools, and for the young people to join their mainstream classes virtually.

5.8. Relationships and Partnership Working

One of the key foundations in supporting these young people is the relationships established within the SWSS and schools, with the families and with other agencies.

Moving the Service to the new location will only strengthen these relationships and partnerships. Parents and carers will be able to see enhanced provision for their children to help them re-engage with education. There will be increased opportunities for the parents and carers to interact with the Service: parking facilities, dedicated meeting room, *etc.*

The Service will be closer to New College Lanarkshire, Kirkintilloch Campus, with which there are links for positive destinations, as well as the Early Years Centre with whom facilities management services can be shared.

For other Education support services, the move is not detrimental as the new location is less than 0.3 miles from the current location, under 5 minutes' walk.

5.9. The proposed new site at Southbank Road is located centrally within Kirkintilloch, not far from the current location (0.3 miles). This will ensure

continuity of existing educational links with mainstream schools, partners, parents and carers and equality of opportunity for all within an inclusive educational experience.

5.10. It is often commented that children who learn to adjust and adapt to the behaviours of others become more accommodating and accepting in their own approaches. Key Curriculum for Excellence Health and Wellbeing outcomes would be much more readily developed, namely:

- *I understand that my feelings and reactions can change depending upon what is happening within and around me. This helps me to understand my own behaviour and the way others behave and*
- *I know that friendship, caring, sharing, fairness, equality and love are important in building positive relationships. As I develop and value relationships, I care and show respect for myself and others.*

5.11. In providing this service to children with significant barriers to learning who are currently being supported within their mainstream schools, the pressure on resources within those schools to offer the enhanced support needed will be lessened. This will therefore rebalance the support available to all.

5.12. The morale and ethos of pupils and staff will be enhanced by virtue of the enhanced offering within the Southbank Road site.

5.13. Monitoring

The SWSS is, to all intents and purposes, a school, and as such follows the school term time calendar. In addition, it is governed by the Council Policies and Procedures as is the case for a mainstream school.

To ensure that educational benefits are maximised for all, a full programme of professional learning and quality assurance by centre staff would be undertaken. Regular meetings to assess the impact of transition on outcomes for learners, staff, parents/carers and partners would take place.

5.14. Conclusion and Recommendation

If implemented, this relocation will provide much needed appropriate support within an enhanced nurturing location. It would reduce pressures on other resources which are currently implementing nurturing approaches by offering an enhanced dedicated building. By educating young people with significant barriers to learning within the proposed SWSS at Southbank Road, it is anticipated that young people in other resources would therefore also enjoy improved outcomes as and when the young people re-engage in mainstream education.

It is recommended that all interested parties review the proposal within this paper and support the proposed move of the Secondary Wellbeing Support Service from Donaldson Street to Southbank Road.

In assessing the corporate risk attached to this proposal, it is anticipated that a public consultation event and written communication to the wider parent forum should address concerns.

6.0 Indicative Timeline

Date	Action
June 2023	Launch of Consultation Period
August/September 2023	Public Meeting to be held
September 2023	Close of Consultation Period
September/October 2023	Education Scotland reports on educational aspects of proposal
September/October 2023	Council publishes consultation report
December 2023	Council decides whether to proceed with proposal
February 2024	Proposed date of implementation