



Directorate of Children's Services

Consultation on Decommissioning of Individual Needs Centres (INCs)

'Putting children and young people first in Dudley'

November 2008

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2004-2005
Transforming the School Workforce



Directorate of Children's Services

Consultation Document

Consultation on: Consultation on Decommissioning of Individual Needs Centres (INCs)

Summary: Decommissioning of Individual Needs Centres (INCs) located in mainstream schools and re-direct funding to new specialist provisions in mainstream schools, the need identified as part of Dudley's SEN Strategy.

Deadline: *All responses must be received **31 December 2008***

Consultees:

- Black Country Chamber of Commerce
- Black Country Connexions
- Chairs of Governing Bodies
- Children's Centres
- Children's Trust Executive Board
- Community Forums / Groups
- Councillors
- DOSTI
- Dudley Association of Governing Bodies
- Dudley Borough Churches Forum
- Directorate Staff
- Dudley Community Partnership
- Dudley Council Directorates – Corporate Board
- Dudley Council for Voluntary Services
- Dudley Group of Hospitals
- Dudley Muslim Association
- Dudley Parent Partnership
- Dudley Primary Care Trust
- Dudley Safeguarding Children's Board
- Education Business Partnership
- Further Education Colleges
- Headteachers
- Members of Local Admissions Forum
- Members of Parliament
- Neighbouring Directors of Children's Services
- Roman Catholic Diocesan Schools Commission
- Select Committee for Children's Services
- Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
- The Black Country Learning and Skills Council
- The Kashmiri Pakistani Professionals Forum

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Dudley MBC website www.dudley.gov.uk
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Responses to: Laura Ferrington – Executive Support Team Manager
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*Your responses will be co-ordinated by the above person.
Any responses will be provided by the appropriate responsible
officer for this consultation.*

All responses may be published. A **large print version**, and translation into other languages is available on request to the above address.



John Freeman
Director of Children's Services

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Glossary

DCSF	Department for Children, Schools and Families
DSG	Dedicated Schools Grant
INCs	Individual Needs Centres
SpLD	Specific Learning Difficulties
MLD	Moderate Learning Difficulties
ASD	Autistic Spectrum Disorder
BESD	Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties
SLCN	Speech Language and Communication Needs
SEN	Special Educational Needs
HTCF-BWG	Headteachers Consultative Forum – Budget Working Group
ISB	Individual Schools Budget
LA	Local Authority
LMS	Local Management for Schools
MFG	Minimum Funding Guarantee
SLA	Service Level Agreement

Directorate of Children's Services

Executive Summary of the Decommissioning of Individual Needs Centres (INCs) located in mainstream schools and re-direction of funding to new specialist provisions in mainstream schools

Individual Needs Centres (INCs) have been in operation in Dudley mainstream schools since 1998. For 2008/09 a budget of £667k is available to fund the mainstream school INCs.

INCs were expected to offer provision for statemented pupils with a range of difficulties including language and communication; literacy and skills; learning difficulties; numeracy skills; personal organisation; work skills; and social skills.

A recent needs analysis has identified that most INC provision has had a gradual reduction in Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) numbers. Schools across Dudley have developed inclusive practice and more pupils with MLD are attending their local mainstream provision. However the needs analysis identified pupils whose other special educational needs were not being well met within Dudley mainstream schools.

The current pupil placements in INCs indicate that the take up is 38% with an average per pupil place cost of £13,750. These statistics do not represent effective use of Council resources or offer the best value for money for schools.

In order to ensure better use of resources and to take forward key elements of the SEN Strategy, namely developing the range of additional mainstream provision to meet the continuum of need in relation to Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD), Speech and Language & Communication Needs and Physical Impairments, it is proposed that the INCs will be decommissioned from the end of the current financial year 2008/09. The £667,000 budget available will be used to fund the new specialist provisions.

The Local Authority will commission services from schools against a pre defined service specification. All mainstream schools will be able to bid for the service.

The new provisions will be phased in over two academic years commencing September 2009. Phase 1 will develop the ASD and BESD provision. Phase 2 will develop Speech and Language provision and Physical Impairment provision. There will be interim arrangements put into place for the phase 2 provision.

Decommissioning of Individual Needs Centres (INCs) located in mainstream schools and re-direction of funding to new specialist provisions in mainstream schools

Desired Outcomes of the Consultation

1. To decommission from 31 March 2009, seven Individual Needs Centres (INCs) located in Dudley mainstream schools and re-direct funding to new specialist provisions in Dudley mainstream schools, identified as needed as part of Dudley's Special Educational Needs (SEN) Strategy.

Purpose of the Consultation

2. The purpose of this consultation document is to provide information concerning the content of school budgets in 2009/10 and to invite views in respect of proposed INCs amendment in the resource allocation formula to be used in the setting of school budgets with effect from 2009/10. The consultation period closes on 31 December 2008. All responses to the consultation must be received by this date. The outcomes of the consultation will be reported to Schools Forum in February 2009 for final approval.

Funding of Schools Budget

3. The Children's Services budget is structured on the basis of primary legislation. The DCSF provide Local Authorities with a Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to fund the activities included within the schools budget. The schools budget covers both the Individual Schools Budget (ISB), which provides schools with delegated budget shares, together with the centrally retained budgets, such as early years and SEN. The funding framework can be found in the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008.
4. The distribution of the ISB is made in accordance with an approved local resource allocation formula.
5. The School Finance (England) Regulations 2008 prescribe that a local authority may make changes to the formulae they have used in determining school budget shares (delegated budgets) but they must consult their schools forum about any proposed changes in relation to the factors and criteria taken into account and methods, principles and rules adopted in the formulae. (Regulation 8).
6. In order to allow for implementation of the proposals included within this consultation document from April 2009 the period of consultation has been reduced from the standard 12 weeks to 6 weeks. Schools Forum will need to approve the proposals prior to implementation and time is also required for SEN Officers to adequately review and amend statements, where necessary, in consultation with parents, in time for indicative budgets to be issued to schools in March 2009. The seven INC schools affected by the proposals have already been made aware of the proposals prior to the consultation thus giving time for

discussion and feedback to the Local Authority prior to consultation.

Accountability

7. In 1998 the funding for INCs was delegated and earmarked to eight mainstream schools.
8. The INC funding allocated to Sycamore Green school was withdrawn from the ISB in 2006 at the time of the school closure. This funding has been set aside and is available to contribute towards the new specialist provision in mainstream schools. Therefore the total INCs budget available for redistribution to fund the new specialist provision is £667k (2008/09 budget).

Background - Establishment of INC Provision

9. Individual Needs Centres were established in 1998 for 3 main reasons:
 - to provide a facility for those pupils who, it was believed, could access a mainstream setting with a high level of support and who required a more nurturing environment;
 - to provide additional mainstream options to parents and pupils in support of the inclusion agenda;
 - to provide additional SEN options where special schools were becoming oversubscribed.
10. Typically INCs were expected to offer provision for statemented pupils with a range of difficulties including:
 - Language and communication;
 - Literacy skills and Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD);
 - Numeracy Skills;
 - Personal Organisation;
 - Work Skills;
 - Social Skills.
11. Pupils would not be offered a place in the INC where the primary difficulty was in the area of:
 - Physical and sensory difficulties;
 - Complex communication;
 - Emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Current SEN Trend in Mainstream Schools

12. A recent needs analysis has identified that most INC provision has had a gradual reduction in Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) numbers. Schools across Dudley have developed inclusive practice and more pupils with MLD are being supported in their local mainstream provision. However the needs analysis identified pupils whose other special educational needs were not being well met within Dudley mainstream schools.

13. Table 1 details the current pupil placements in INCs, indicating that the take up (excluding the ex Sycamore Green INC) is 38% with an average per pupil place cost of £13,750.

Table 1 – 2008/09 Delegated Schools Budget Funding for INCs

SCHOOL	PLACES	ACTUAL NUMBERS	2008/09 BUDGET ALLOCATION £000
Castle	25	13	£119k
Pensnett	25	4	£119k
Crestwood	25	9	£119k
Subtotal	75	26	£357k
Colley Lane	10	5	£ 62k
Hob Green	10	10	£ 62k
Quarry Bank	10	2	£62k
Bromley Pensnett	10	1	£62k
Subtotal	40	18	£248k
Funding for Ex Sycamore Green INC	10	0	£ 62k
Total	125	44	£667k

Proposals for New Specialist Provisions

14. In order to ensure effective use of resources and to take forward key elements of the SEN Strategy, namely developing the range of additional mainstream provision to meet the continuum of need in relation to Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD), Speech and Language & Communication Needs (SLCN) and Physical Impairments, it is proposed that the INCs will be decommissioned from the end of the current financial year 2008/09. The £667,000 budget available will be used to fund the new specialist provisions. This element of the SEN strategy will also assist over

time to reduce the need for high cost placements in out of borough provision thus ensuring better use of resources via internal provisions.

15. The local authority will commission services from schools against a pre defined service specification. All mainstream schools will be able to bid for the service. Bids will be subjected to a matrix to determine the successful bidders. In order to build stability and continuity of service the new provisions will be commissioned for a period of between three to five years,
16. The funding, £667,000 at 2008/09 prices, will be increased annually by inflation and retained as a central budget within the Children's Specialist Services division. The amount paid annually to schools will be in accordance with the commissioned provision agreement.
17. The new provisions will be phased in over two academic years commencing September 2009. Phase 1 will develop the ASD and BESD provision. Phase 2 will develop Speech and Language provision and Physical Impairment provision. This phasing is necessary as both Hob Green and Colley Lane schools are currently addressing the needs of pupils with more complex difficulties within their INCs, so interim arrangements will be agreed with these schools via a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to ensure the ongoing support to the 15 existing pupils within their additionally resourced provision. The SLA will be in place during the period April 2009 to August 2010 whilst commissioning for phase 2 and tendering for new specialist provisions takes place.
18. All other pupils currently on 'INC' statements in schools (excluding Hob Green and Colley Lane) will be transferred to 'mainstream plus hours of support' statements within their existing schools from April 2009. This means that the provisions of the 29 SEN statements of children in the other INCs (Castle High, Pensnett, Crestwood, Quarry Bank and Bromley Pensnett schools) will be reviewed and amended, in consultation with parents, in time for indicative budgets to be issued to schools in March 2009.
19. Of these 29 INC statements 26 will be for secondary SEN pupils of which 5 will be in Year 11 and a further 10 in Year 10. Therefore more than half of these pupil numbers will cease to be counted in the mainstream school statement budget by the end of the academic year 2009 - 2010. Additionally it should be noted that 1 pupil in Quarry Bank is Year 6 and the one child in Bromley Pensnett is Year 6 and their statements would be due for review for secondary transfer in the normal course of events.
20. In September 2009 pupils with complex ASD, BESD and SLCN, currently in mainstream schools with hours of support, will be admitted to the 26 places in the newly commissioned specialist provisions. This will complete phase 1 of the new provisions and take up to 26 pupils out of the mainstream school statement budget and into the new specialist provision budget. Full details contained in Table 2.

21. Phase 2 of the new provisions will be completed by September 2010, when the Speech and Language provision together with the Physical Impairment provision will be operational.
22. It is anticipated that as the number of pupils moving out of the INCs provision during 2009/10 is broadly equivalent to the number of pupils moving into the new specialist provision, the impact upon the mainstream SEN statemented delegated budget is estimated to be cost neutral.

Table 2 -SPECIALIST MAINSTREAM PROVISIONS - PROPOSALS

PROVISION	PLACES	FULL YEAR REVENUE BUDGET ALLOCATION (at 2008/09 prices) £000	PHASING
ASD Provision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 x Secondary ASD Provision ▪ 1 x Primary ASD Provision 	<p style="text-align: center;">10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">£127k</p> <p style="text-align: center;">£127k</p>	Phase 1 – September 2009
BESD Provision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 x Primary BESD Provision 	8	£127k	Phase 1 – September 2009
SLCN Provision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secondary speech language service (Joint development with PCT) 	varies	£30k	SLCN provision to be delivered by the PCT via a service level agreement which is a jointly funded provision for secondary outreach
Enhancement of existing provisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HI, KS1 Language Units, Pre-School Assessment Unit 		£10k	To develop specialist resources and improve ICT within specialist units

Speech & Language Provision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 x KS2 Provision ▪ Primary SLCN Outreach Service 	8 varies	£96k £75k	Phase 2 – September 2010 Pupils will be supported by specialists on an outreach basis within their mainstream setting.
Physical Impairment Provision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 x Primary Provision 	8	£75k	Phase 2 – September 2010
Total Provision at 2008/09 prices		£667k	

Set Up Costs for New Specialist Provisions

23. The phased implementation over two academic years will allow for the new provision set up costs to be found from the overall INCs budget.

Minimum Funding Guarantee

24. Since 2004-05 the allocation of schools formula budgets has been subject to the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG); this is a guarantee introduced by the DCSF which ensures that schools receive a minimum increase in funding per pupil (mainstream) or per place (special or nursery). The MFG has the effect of protecting to a degree those schools that have falling rolls or rapidly falling budgets. So in the case of a formula funding review any rapid change in budget from one year to the next will be protected at the level of the MFG. further details can be accessed:
www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/schoolfunding/schoolfunding2008to11/.

25. However, in the case of the mainstream SEN stated funding this is an accepted MFG exclusion and schools do not gain any protection under the MFG. It is proposed that this principle should also apply to the withdrawal of the INCs funding and therefore Schools Forum will be asked to exclude this formula adjustment from the MFG calculation from 2009/10 in order that the seven schools in receipt of INC funding in 2008/09 are not protected from that loss in 2009/10.

Proposed Timetable

The following indicative timetable is planned for the budget setting cycle.

- **17 November 2008 – 31 December 2008-** Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Resource Allocation Formula for Schools - INCs.
- **January 2009- March 2009** –Agree mainstream SEN statements for INC pupils.
- **January 2009- March 2009** – Agree Service Level Agreement with Hob Green and Colley Lane school for period April 2009 to August 2010.
- **23 February 2009** - HTCF - Budget Working Group considers proposed LMS Formula changes for 2009/10..
- **24 February 2009** - Schools Forum considers proposed LMS Formula changes for 2009/10.
- **3 March 2009** - Decision by Cabinet Member for Children's Services
- **6 March 2009** – Schools Indicative budgets issued.
- **31 March 2009** – Service de-commissioned
- **31 March 2009** – Schools final budgets and Section 52 budget statement issued.
- **April 2009 – July 2009** – Phase 1 commissioning for new specialist provisions
- **September 2009** – Phase1 specialist provisions in mainstream operational.
- **September 2009 – March 2010** – Phase 2 commissioning for new specialist provisions.
- **September 2010** – Phase 2 specialist provisions in mainstream operational.

The Council is committed to informing schools of their indicative 2009/10 budgets at the earliest possible date.

Consultation Questionnaire

Please note: All proposals are linked to the consultation document

Name:.....Organisation:.....

Contact email address:

It is not necessary to answer every question. Please complete only those on which you wish to register an opinion.

Question 1. Do you agree with the proposal to decommission the current INC provisions from 31 March 2009 (*Paragraph 1*)

Yes No

Comment

Question 2. Do you agree that the current INC provision with a 38% take up does not represent effective use of Council resources? (*Paragraph 13*)

Yes No

Comment

Question 3. Do you agree that the existing INC funding of £667,000 should be directed towards a new specialist provision in mainstream schools? (*Paragraph 8 & 14*)

Yes

No

Comment

Question 4. Do you agree with the proposal to develop the range of additional mainstream specialist provision for: Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD), Speech and Language & Communication Needs (SLCN) and Physical Impairments? (*Paragraph 14*)

Yes

No

Comment

Question 5. Do you agree that the new specialist provisions in mainstream schools should be put out to tender to all mainstream schools (*Paragraph 15*)

Yes

No

Comment

Question 6. Do you agree that the new specialist provisions in mainstream schools should be commissioned on a three to five year basis? (*Paragraph 15*)

Yes

No

Comment

Question 7. Do you agree that it is appropriate to retain the new mainstream specialist provision funds centrally whilst the provision is being established and the outcomes monitored by the Directorate of Children's Services? (*Paragraph 16*)

Yes

No

Comment

Question 8. Do you agree that the new mainstream specialist provisions should be phased over two academic years commencing in September 2009 with an interim SLA arrangement for Hob Green and Colley Lane covering the period until August 2010? (*Paragraph 17-21*)

Yes

No

Comment

Question 9. Do you agree that Schools Forum should exercise their powers in favour of excluding the withdrawal of INC funding from the MFG calculation from 2009/10 in order that the seven schools in receipt of INC funding in 2008/09 are not protected from that loss in 2009/10? (*Paragraph 25*)

Yes

No

Comment

Other Comments

Thank you taking part in this consultation.

Please return your response to

**Laura Ferrington
Team Manager – Executive Support Team
Directorate of Children’s Services
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Dudley DY1 1JQ**

director.children@dudley.gov.uk



Equality monitoring of DMBC consultations

The information you give on this form will be used to enable Dudley Council to assess the impact of its policies on all sections of the community.

The details you provide will be treated confidentially and will be used to ensure that the views of a wide range of groups and individuals are included in the consultation process and given the opportunity to shape Council policies.

If you are completing this form on behalf of an organisation please try to answer the questions in general terms about the people your organisation represents.

1. Please indicate whether you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Individuals response
<input type="checkbox"/>	Organisations response

2. I would describe my ethnic group, or the ethnic group/s represented by my organisation as:

ASIAN OR ASIAN BRITISH

<input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/> Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani
<input type="checkbox"/> Any Other Asian background		

BLACK OR BLACK BRITISH

<input type="checkbox"/> African	<input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> Any Other Black Background
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CHINESE OR OTHER

<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
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MIXED

<input type="checkbox"/> Asian & White	<input type="checkbox"/> Black African & White	<input type="checkbox"/> Black Caribbean & White
<input type="checkbox"/> Any Other Mixed background		

WHITE

<input type="checkbox"/> British	<input type="checkbox"/> Irish	<input type="checkbox"/> Any Other White Background
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RANGE OF ETHNICITIES

3. I would describe my religion/belief or the religion/beliefs of the people represented by my organisation as:

Buddhist

No Religion

Christian

Sikh

Hindu

Other

Jewish

A range of religions/beliefs

Muslim

Unknown

4. My gender or the gender of the people my organisation represents is:

Female

Male

Mixed

5. My age or the age range of the people my organisation represents is:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Under 5 years old	<input type="checkbox"/>	26 – 35 years old
<input type="checkbox"/>	5 – 10 years old	<input type="checkbox"/>	36 – 45 years old
<input type="checkbox"/>	11 – 16 years old	<input type="checkbox"/>	46 – 55 years old
<input type="checkbox"/>	17 – 19 years old	<input type="checkbox"/>	Over 56 years old
<input type="checkbox"/>	20 – 25 years old	<input type="checkbox"/>	A range of ages

6. I consider myself or many of the people my organisation represents to be:

Disabled

Not disabled

Note:

The Disability Discrimination Act, 1995 defines a “disabled person” as having “a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial or long term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities”.

Thank you for completing this form.

Please return this form with your consultation response