

CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Cumbria County Council, The Courts, Carlisle CA3 8NA ("the Council") intends to discontinue THE ALFRED BARROW (COMMUNITY) SCHOOL Duke Street, Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2LB, PARKVIEW (FOUNDATION) SCHOOL, West Avenue, Barrow-in-Furness LA13 9AY and THORNCLIFFE (COMMUNITY) SCHOOL - A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE, Thorncliffe Road, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 5QP on 31 August 2009.

It is proposed that pupils currently attending Alfred Barrow, Parkview and Thorncliffe Schools will, from 1 September 2009, attend the proposed Academy which it is envisaged will be built on the sites of Parkview School, West Avenue Barrow-in-Furness, LA13 9AY and Thorncliffe School, Thorncliffe Road Barrow-in-Furness LA14 5QP. Admission may also be sought to other local schools, subject to the admissions arrangements applicable to such schools.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to these proposals were complied with in that Cumbria County Council undertook appropriate consultations on possible changes to the existing secondary schools in Barrow-in-Furness during the autumn of 2007

The Council's home to school transport policy will apply. The majority of pupils who currently attend the three schools live within reasonable walking distance of the Parkview and Thorncliffe sites. As a result it is not expected that the number of journeys made by car will need to increase as a result of pupils attending those sites. The Authority will work to encourage sustainable methods of travel to school.

In consequence of these proposals other measures are in hand to increase the number of places at Walney Community School, Sandy Gap Lane, Barrow-in-Furness LA14 3JL from 720 to 900 places and St Bernard's Catholic High School Rating Lane, Barrow-in-Furness LA13 9LE from 860 to 1000 places from September 2011.

This notice is related to the proposal to expand and increase the published admission number at Walney Community School which will be published on 13 February 2009.

Whilst there is no formal strategic special education needs (SEN) provision at any of the three schools which it is proposed should be discontinued, it is the case that pupils with SEN do currently attend all three schools. The Council believes that these proposals are likely to lead to improvements in the standard and quality of educational provision for these pupils for reasons which include:

- The opportunity to create brand new accommodation and provide up-to-the-minute ICT facilities on both Academy sites will mean improved learning environments and opportunities for all pupils, including those with SEN.
- Any negative effects of the disproportionate concentration of pupils with SEN at Alfred Barrow School will be avoided.
- Larger schools will be able to have more appropriately trained staff who specialise in meeting SEN.
- Fewer schools will mean less fragmentation of support services related to meeting SEN.
- Furness College, one of the sponsors of the potential Academy, has developed significant expertise and provision for students with SEN which it is intended will be used to support Academy teachers and pupils.
- The proposed Academy's organisational structure will ensure access to the curriculum and inclusivity to the benefit of all pupils.

This notice is an extract from the complete proposal copies of which can be obtained by contacting Mike Tuer, School Organisation Team, 18 Portland Square, Carlisle CA1 1PE (Tel. 01228 226038) (mike.tuer@cumbriacc.gov.uk) or online at www.cumbriacc.gov.uk/childrensservices/school-organisation.

Within six weeks from the date of publication of these proposals i.e. by 13 March 2009, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to the School Organisation Manager, Cumbria County Council 18 Portland Square, Carlisle, CA1 1PE.

Signed : Angela Harwood
Authorised Officer of the Authority
Dated : 30 January 2009

Explanatory Notes

1. Academies are publicly funded independent schools with sponsors who may be from the education, private and voluntary sectors. The joint lead sponsors for the proposed Academy are the Barrow-in-Furness Sixth Form College, Furness College and the University of Cumbria. The establishment of an Academy is subject to determination by the Secretary of State. It is proposed that the closure of Alfred Barrow, Parkview and Thorncliffe Schools if approved would be conditional on and take effect only if by the date of the proposed closure an agreement has been made under section 482(1) of the Education Act 1996 for the establishment of an Academy.

2. It is anticipated that the catchment area of the proposed Academy would include the whole of the existing catchment areas of Alfred Barrow, Parkview and Thorncliffe Schools.

3. The proposed Academy will open on 1 September 2009 initially in the same buildings as currently occupied by the existing Thorncliffe and Parkview schools and will provide 1200 places for boys and girls between the ages of 11 and 16, with an admission number of 240. It is envisaged that admissions to September 2009 year 7 at the proposed Academy will be determined by applying the published admission arrangements of the predecessor schools.

4. For pupils who live within the catchment area of the proposed Academy, transport to the Academy or the nearest school with available places will be provided in accordance with the Authority's policy which in summary is that free transport will be provided :-

- for pupils age 8 and above who live more than 3 miles away from the school site attended, the distance to be measured by the nearest available walking route. Children from low income families may have an extended entitlement.

or

- are attending a school (i.e. Alfred Barrow, Parkview or Thorncliffe) at the date of closure and live within their respective catchment areas provided:-

a) they attend the new school (i.e. the proposed Academy)

and

b) are traveling a greater distance than they traveled to attend the closed school and the distance from home to the site of the new school attended (i.e. the Academy) is more than two miles.

5. If the Academy opens in September 2009, it is anticipated that its pupils will be educated at either the Parkview site or the Thorncliffe site. Which of the two sites pupils will attend may depend on the extent and timing of the building work, the school currently attended and how the Academy is organised whilst the building work is carried out. It is not envisaged that pupils will have to travel between the two sites to undertake lessons on a regular basis.

6. All objections and other comments made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the representation period i.e. no later than 13 March 2009 will be sent to Cumbria County Council's Cabinet. The final decision on whether or not to implement these proposals has to be made, using the guidance provided by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, by the Cabinet of Cumbria County Council within 2 months of the end of the representation period.

7. Should you wish for any further information in connection with this notice, this can be obtained by contacting Mike Tuer, School Organisation Team, 18 Portland Square, Carlisle, CA1 1PE (Tel. 01228 226038)(E-mail mike.tuer@cumbriacc.gov.uk).