

Planning Resourced Provision for Trinity School

A consultation document



June 2009

Introduction

The County Council has identified a gap in its specialist provision in Cumbria. As a consequence of this, the County Council is seeking to establish resourced provision to meet the needs of deaf/hearing impaired (HI) young people within a mainstream secondary school setting in Carlisle.

For the purposes of establishing what we mean by hearing impaired, the following references from the County Council's SEN (Special Educational Needs) Handbook might assist a wider understanding. 'A hearing loss itself does not constitute a special educational need. The crucial factor is the effect the hearing loss may have upon both language development and access to the curriculum'. The level of support will be initially determined by the degree of language delay caused by the child's hearing loss and subsequently by the extent of the hearing loss itself. Most mainstream schools can cater for children with moderate hearing impairment. The provision that is envisaged for Trinity School is to enable that school to provide for profoundly deaf and severely hearing impaired children in a mainstream setting who might otherwise have had to be educated at specialist schools outside the Authority.

For more detailed information on the criteria for establishing whether a pupil has hearing impairment, please look at Section E of the SEN Handbook which can be found on the Children's Services website www.cumbria.gov.uk/elibrary/content/internet/537/4208/39360152810.pdf

Resourced provision at schools offers the opportunity for deaf and HI pupils to be taught alongside their peers with access to additional and specialist support and staffing. This provides individual pupils the fullest opportunity to make progress in their learning whilst participating in all other activities offered within their school and community.

Trinity School was approached by the Authority some time ago and asked if they would consider hosting resourced provision at the school, basing this approach on the school's previous effective working with individual deaf pupils. Having established the school's willingness to participate in the project, this consultation document is about turning the school's commitment from a vision into a reality.

If you would like further information you can find out more by:

- **Visiting the School Organisation website:**
www.cumbriacc.gov.uk/childrensservices/school-organisation
- **Visiting the Children's Services Special Needs website:**
www.cumbriacc.gov.uk/childrensservices/senhoep
- **Telephoning the School Organisation Team on: 01228 226013**

This document marks the start of a genuine and open consultation process. We would like as many people as possible with an involvement or interest in the school, or in secondary education in the area more generally, to contribute their thoughts on what should happen. There is a questionnaire at the end of this document which we would like you to fill in and send back to us.



Moira Swann

Moira Swann, Corporate Director, Children's Services, Cumbria County Council

Index



- The purpose and nature of the consultation document 2
- Resourced provision for children with hearing impairments in Cumbria 3
- Considering the possibility of establishing resourced provision 5
- Achieving resourced provision at Trinity School 6
- Drawing conclusions 7
- Next steps – the consultation and decision-making process 8
- Translation services 10
- The questionnaire 11

The purpose and nature of the consultation document



The purpose of this document is to provide information and an opportunity to comment on the possibility of developing resourced provision for hearing impaired pupils at Trinity School in Carlisle.

Its aim is to focus on whether establishing resourced provision would be likely to:

- create the most effective provision for the future for hearing impaired pupils;
- enhance the educational opportunities for all the pupils in the school.

The consultation document has tried to achieve the right balance between covering the most important issues and meeting the requirements of the 'Special Educational Needs Improvement Test'. This test has recently been formulated by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The test requires authorities to show how the kind of change being considered here will lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of educational provision for children with special needs.

The document has been written for a wide audience including parents, school staff, governors, young people and other members of the community and recognises that individuals will have different starting points in terms of knowledge and understanding. The consultation takes this into account and has attempted to make this document as easy as possible to read and understand.

Your views are important to us and will be a great help in reaching a decision. We realise that you may want more information to help you form your opinions. Details of how you can access additional information or talk over any issues of concern with us are given on page 9.

Resourced provision for children with hearing impairments in Cumbria

Overview

As indicated in 'Inclusive Cumbria', the County Council has made a long and successful commitment to inclusive and high quality education for pupils with special educational needs. Cumbria County Council continues to make available the highest levels of inclusive mainstream provision to pupils of all ages in comparison with other local authorities in England.

In an effort to extend the range of inclusive learning opportunities for pupils, the Council has developed a network of additionally resourced provision at 23 mainstream primary and secondary schools throughout Cumbria. For more information on these resourced schools and the principles that have underpinned their development, follow the links to Strategically Resourced Schools on the Children's Services Special Needs website, details of which are given in the introduction.

The County Council believes that the developments at these already successful schools have, through the inclusion of pupils with a wider range of special educational needs, enhanced the learning opportunities of all pupils by:

- enrichment of the curriculum through social awareness and community responsibility;
- developing the quality and skills of the staff;
- improving the buildings and offering better facilities.

Resourced provision in the Carlisle area

The aim of the County Council is to extend the range of provision available to secondary age hearing impaired pupils. It is important to note that, in developing resourced provision at Trinity School, places will be made available to those pupils whose level of hearing loss makes it particularly important that they attend a school with a good acoustic environment. A key feature of this new provision at Trinity School will be to ensure that the environment in which HI pupils are taught is compatible and suitable to meet their needs.

Taking account of legislative requirements, the County Council is responsible for securing appropriate educational provision for all pupils, whether or not they have special educational needs. The County Council, through this consultation process, is seeking to address a current gap in mainstream provision; that of mainstream specialist provision for secondary age pupils with hearing impairments in the Carlisle area.



Inclusive learning expectations

The County Council recognises that its policy of establishing a network of resourced schools is, by its very nature, less inclusive than making provision in each and every local mainstream school. The rationale for this policy centres on the lack of expertise, specialist support and resources to be able to offer suitably enhanced provision in every school. Resourced schools are seen as a key development in extending the range of provision available to pupils across Cumbria. Our ultimate aim is to reach a position where all schools can meet the needs of all pupils, regardless of the complexity of their needs. However, for profoundly deaf pupils in the Carlisle area, the siting of skills, resources and expertise within a resourced mainstream school is a way of achieving a position that is close to the inclusive ideal that we strive for.

By developing resourced provision within selected schools in the county, the Council believes that it is enhancing the range of provision for children and parents within Cumbria. Furthermore, the Council considers that this strategic response:

- meets the continuing needs of HI pupils in Carlisle and north Cumbria;
- fulfils its responsibilities to parents and families to provide a range of local services;
- enriches opportunities for all pupils;
- complies with the legislative targets imposed by government.

What is most important for pupils is that they are educated in a supportive educational environment which offers the opportunity for inclusive learning. This should take place in a school that is willing to adapt to the needs of the individual, rather than expecting the individual to cope with what is provided for others.

The County Council has developed its own Inclusion Chartermark, a means to assess the inclusivity of schools, and it is this standard which it expects resourced schools to meet. A copy of the Inclusion Chartermark can be accessed on the School Organisation website.

Contractual arrangements

All existing resourced schools are expected to have an agreed contractual arrangement with the County Council. This formal agreement has a 3-year life span, renewable annually on a roll-on basis. So, if either the County Council or the school no longer consider the resourced provision arrangement to be viable, then a 3-year notice period is required.

The purpose of the agreement is to give detailed information on areas of responsibility relating to the resourced provision between the County Council and the resourced school. The contract covers the following key areas:

- Curriculum
- Staffing arrangements
- Funding of the provision
- Pupils (including designated number)
- Placement arrangements
- Transport arrangements
- Admissions / exit criteria

A copy of the draft contract can be accessed on the School Organisation website.

Considering the possibility of establishing resourced provision

Background to the selection of Trinity School as a possible host

Over the years, Trinity School has worked successfully and effectively with a number of deaf and hearing impaired pupils. A cluster of primary-age pupils from the Carlisle area, with similar hearing needs, prompted careful consideration of how their future needs could best be inclusively met. Professional discussions reached a consensus view that the needs of this group of students could be best met in Carlisle in a school that was suitably equipped and resourced to meet their long-term needs. Recognising that Trinity had already developed skills and expertise in this specialist area, the selection of the school as a possible host was relatively easy to make.

Education in Trinity School

Trinity School is a CE Voluntary Aided School for pupils aged 11-18 years. It is an above-average-sized secondary school with 1875 students on roll, 390 of them in the sixth form. In 1998 the school successfully gained specialist status in languages.

Although the incidence of students with SEN at the school is below the national average, Trinity School has a large special needs department to deal with the many areas of need and has developed a particular interest and skill in working with young people who have HI. The school is keen to continue to develop this expertise as indicated by its senior leadership team's willingness to establish formally resourced provision on behalf of the County Council.

It is important that the school is enhanced by the establishment of resourced provision, and that the basic character is not changed by distorting the overall balance of the pupil profile. Consequently, the number of hearing impaired pupils will be restricted to a maximum of 8.

At its last Ofsted in May 2009, the school's report said: 'Trinity School provides its students with a good education...the quality of the teaching and learning is good...standards at Key Stage 4 are continuing to rise and most students throughout years 10 and 11, including those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are making good progress.' It also stated that: 'The school is rightly proud of those individuals who make good progress against the odds.'

The Ofsted report further commented that 'Students benefit from an exemplary level of care and this provides a secure platform from which they can pursue their studies...Mutual respect is evident in relationships throughout the school. Conversations flow easily, students are welcoming and enjoy each other's company.'

The proposed new provision, in addition to the existing support, would allow the opportunity for pupils to receive specialist help as appropriate and for the school to continue to enhance the good work in this area.

This judgment, coupled with past experience, gives the County Council the confidence to progress and develop this project. As well as meeting the specific and current needs of a group of learners, Trinity will continue to provide for the needs of deaf and hearing impaired young people from the Carlisle area for many years to come.

Achieving resourced provision at Trinity School



General

In order to bring about school organisation change, it is necessary to publish what are known as statutory proposals.

A formal proposal to bring about a 'prescribed alteration' would be needed to establish resourced provision at Trinity School. The intention would be for the County Council to publish the formal proposal which would need to be preceded by a clear written statement of support from the Governing Body of the school.

It is anticipated that any statutory proposal to bring about this change would be published in September 2009, following which a final decision would be likely to be taken by the Council's Cabinet in November 2009.

The school's buildings

A major building project is underway at Trinity School which will refurbish or rebuild much of the existing school buildings. This forms part of the wider rationalisation of secondary school provision in Carlisle which includes the reduction of Trinity School's pupil capacity to 1500. Part of that building project will include dedicated special needs provision. In addition, most of the teaching accommodation will have improved acoustics. The resourced provision will form part of a larger special needs development that, in total, includes:

- a reception
- two classrooms
- staff workspace
- two small rooms for individual tutoring
- medical and assisted toilet facilities
- behaviour intervention and interview spaces
- a range of offices, including spaces for staff such as specialist teachers, audiologists and family support workers

However, securing learning opportunities for young people who are hearing impaired has much to do with providing an acoustic environment, throughout the school, that allows them to be educated alongside their peers. While the pupils will continue to need considerable input from specialist teachers and teaching assistants, by ensuring a good acoustic environment at Trinity School the ability of the hearing impaired pupils to access the curriculum independently will be maximised.

Drawing conclusions

As we have explained, by developing resourced provision within the county, the Council will be providing a local option that extends the range of provision for HI pupils in the Carlisle area. The Council feels that the case for establishing resourced provision at Trinity School is very strong. The Leadership Team at Trinity School has indicated that it feels the same way.

We would like to have your views on the possibility of establishing provision for pupils with hearing impairments at Trinity School, and there is a questionnaire at the back of this document to help. This consultation document and additional supporting information outlined in the next section will help you to form your opinions on the subject.

We look forward to receiving your completed questionnaire or online response as your views are important and will influence the decision which is eventually taken.



Next steps - the consultation and decision-making process



The consultation period

The consultation is based on this document. The consultation period starts on **Monday 22 June 2009**. The final date for letting us have your thoughts and comments is **Friday 31 July 2009**.

How to express your views

This consultation document has been very widely distributed. It has gone to Trinity School's parents, staff and governors, all of the County Council's key partners in the provision of education, neighbouring schools, the District Council, voluntary organisations, staff associations, unions, and many others. It is important that we know what you think about the establishment of resourced provision at Trinity School. We look forward to hearing from you.

Questionnaire

There is a questionnaire at the back of this document. We would like you to complete it and return it to us. Alternatively, you can complete the questionnaire online during the consultation period by following the consultation finder links on the County Council website: www.cumbriacc.gov.uk/consultation.



What happens after the consultation process?

Once the responses to the consultation process have been analysed, a report will be prepared for the County Council's Cabinet. The report will include a summary of comments received from individuals and photocopies of the responses from recognised organisations. The report will be a public document, so will be available to the media and on the County Council website.

The Cabinet will consider the response to the consultation and form a view about what it believes to be the appropriate provision for the future. This is likely to occur shortly after the end of the consultation period.

If it is decided to seek to establish resourced provision at Trinity School, the legal processes referred to in the section on 'Achieving resourced provision at Trinity School' on page 6 will need to be followed.

How can I find out more?

Members of the School Organisation Team will be more than happy to discuss with you any of the issues covered in this document. You might find this helpful before completing the questionnaire.

The number to ring is 01228 226013.

We wanted to keep this document reasonably short. Therefore, there is extra information available if you want to read the detailed background documents that were used when this paper was written. These include draft contracts, 'Inclusive Cumbria' and the most recent Ofsted inspection report.

All of these documents are available to view or download on the School Organisation website, details of which are included in the introduction.

If you do not have access to the internet, we can provide you with a printed copy of any sections of the additional information. All you need to do is to call the School Organisation Team on 01228 226013. Alternatively, requests can be made by fax to 01228 606016, or by post to the following address:

Freepost RRBS – RLBG – GZGL
CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL
School Organisation
18 Portland Square
CARLISLE
CA1 1PE

Translation services

English

You can get a copy of this document in different formats such as large print, braille, audio, or in a different language by calling 01229 833933 .

Bengali

আপনি 01229 833933 -এই নম্বর ফোন করে, বিভিন্ন ফরম্যাট যেমন বড় প্রিন্ট, ব্রেইল, অডিও বা একটি ভিন্ন ভাষাতে এই নথিটির একটি কপি পেতে পারেন।

Portuguese

Pode obter uma cópia deste documento em vários formatos, como por exemplo em Braille, áudio, ou numa outra língua. Para tal ligue para o 01229 833933 .

Cantonese

如果您想获取该文件的不同版本，如：大字体印刷、盲文、音频或不同语言版本，请致电：01229 833933 。

Lithuanian

Paskambinę telefonu 01229 833933 , galite užsisakyti šio dokumento kopiją įvairiais formatais, pavyzdžiui, atspausdintą dideliu šriftu, Brailio raštu, užsisakyti garso įrašą arba gauti dokumentą, išverstą į norimą kalbą.

Polish

Aby otrzymać kopię tego dokumentu w innych formatach, takich jak duży druk, druk Braille’ m, audio, lub w innym języku proszę dzwonić pod numer 01229 833933 .

Turkish

01229 833933 ’u arayarak, bu dokümanın bir kopyasını büyük puntolu, körler için kabartmalı, ses dosyası gibi değişik formatlarda veya farklı bir dilde edinebilirsiniz.

Tagalog (Filipino)

Maaari kang makakuha ng kopya ng dokumentong ito sa iba’t ibat uri tulad ng nakalimbag sa malaking titik, Braille, audio, o sa ibang lengguwahe sa pamamagitan ng pagtawag sa 01229 833933

Thai

ท่านสามารถขอรับเอกสารนี้ในรูปแบบอื่น อย่างเช่น ตัวพิมพ์ใหญ่ อักษรเบรลล์ เสียง หรือในภาษาอื่นก็ได้ เพียงโทรมาที่ 01229 833933



Questionnaire

Planning Resourced Provision for Trinity School

This questionnaire is to help you put your views, comments and suggestions in writing. All views will be made available to those taking decisions. Please continue on a separate sheet if required. Alternatively, complete your questionnaire online at www.cumbriacc.gov.uk/consultation.

Please complete, tear out and return to the address overleaf. The last date for responses to be received is Friday 31 July 2009.

Q1 Given the current situation and the information contained in this document, do you think it appropriate for resourced provision to be developed at Trinity School?

- Yes 1
- No 2
- Don't know 3

Please add any comments that you have about the question above in this box:

Q2 Do you have any further comments or suggestions you wish to make on the content of this consultation document, or more generally?

Q3 Do you have any other suggestions that you wish to make?

Q4 Please tell us the nature of your interest in the process, and which school you are connected to.
Please tick all that apply.

Interest	✓	At which school(s)?	
		Trinity(✓)	Other (please state)
Student	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Parent/Carer of current school student	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Member of support staff	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Member of teaching staff	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Pre-school parent	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Local resident	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other (please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Q5 Name

Address

.....

..... Postcode

Q6 How old are you?

Under 20 1 20-39 2 40-59 3 60+ 4

Signature

Thank you for completing this consultation questionnaire.
Please now return it to the FREEPOST address below:

Freepost RRBS - RLBG - GZGL
CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL
School Organisation
18 Portland Square
CARLISLE CA1 1PE



School Organisation Team

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