

Councillor Call to Action – St Margarets and Spires Hearing Unit Closures

Members of the Children and Young Person's Overview and Scrutiny Board.

As per the Councillor Call to Action provision, I would ask you kindly to consider the Hearing Impairment Units – Revised Decision at your earliest meeting, with a view to a full report.

Since this decision was taken, some parents, teachers, and health professionals have expressed severe concerns about the consultation process, information used to justify this decision, and the impact that it is believed this decision will have on Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision for hearing impaired children over the coming years.

Legal and Statutory Compliance

Questions have also been raised by the National Deaf Children's Society, as to whether this decision complies with legal and statutory requirements:

- Equality Act 2010
- Children's and Families Act 2014
- SEND Code of Practice – Department for Education 2014
- Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools – Department for Education 2024
- Making Significant Changes to an Academy – Department for Education 2014

In light of concerns raised with me I am requesting the Children and Young People's Sub-Board to undertake a review of the processes and consultation which informed original decision and the revised decision that was reached as published on 4 December 2024 see [Decision - Hearing Impairment Units - Revised Decision](#)

I hope a full report can be undertaken and reviewed at the earliest possibility.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Submitted by Councillor George Darling

Recommendation for consideration:

That in accordance with Standing Order D13.1 the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board consider if they wish to request officers to prepare a full report on the matter for submission to a future meeting of the Sub-Board.

Note: there is no provision for the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Board to overturn or change the officer decision that has been taken and is being implemented, but they can request officers to prepare a report to review the process and make recommendations to the Director of Children's Services or the Cabinet.