

# School Organisation Consultation

**Proposal to amalgamate Hope  
Epsom and Guildford to a single  
establishment**

**Sept  
2015**



**SURREY**

## Introduction

1. This paper outlines a proposal for the future of the two Hope Centres in Surrey. These centres are currently registered as two separate Pupil Referral Units (PRUs), although together they operate as one service covering the whole of Surrey. This report outlines the process and timescales for the amalgamation.

## Background

2. The Hope Service is a multi-agency service for young people aged 11-18 who have complex mental health, emotional, social and educational needs which cannot be met by one agency alone. It is a joint partnership between Surrey County Council and the Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. Health Services, Children's Services and education work in partnership to provide support to young people in the community and through day programme provision. At Hope there is a dedicated team of social workers, nurses, teachers, psychologists, art/drama therapists, psychiatrists, occupational therapists, dietician and activity workers.
3. The day programme offers structured therapeutic, educational and personalised recreational activities to young people. The programme is flexible to ensure that it meets individual needs in a safe, supportive and therapeutic environment. In addition to education, there is a focus on individual and group therapy, art therapy, drama therapy, psychology, cognitive behavioural therapy, anger and anxiety management, assertiveness training and practical social and living skills.
4. Education is planned and delivered to young people according to their ability and need, both individually and in small groups. Emphasis is placed on supporting each young person to enjoy their learning and to celebrate their achievements. The Hope Service works closely with other education establishments to ensure a smooth transition for each young person back into education, employment or training upon discharge from Hope. The day programme runs daily during term time, and continues with therapeutic work and activities in the school holidays.
5. The Hope Service is based over two sites; West Park in Epsom which was set up in October 2004 and Worplesdon Road, Guildford that started in January 2005. Currently the service has one management committee, one service manager, one teacher in charge and a number of teaching, medical and support staff that work across both sites. However, the sites are registered individually as PRUs and are therefore subject to separate OFSTED inspections. Their last OFSTED inspections were Epsom in 2013 and Guildford in 2012; both outcomes were 'Good'.

## Proposal

6. The Local Authority is proposing to amalgamate The Hope, Epsom and The Hope, Guildford to be one PRU, with one establishment number based across two sites.

## Rationale

7. When The Hope Service was established originally it was envisaged that this would be one service based across two sites. However, during the initial set up period there were some transition difficulties. It was decided to proceed with a single registration for each centre so that the service could begin at Epsom with Guildford following at a later date.
8. It would be beneficial to bring the two PRUs together so that they are registered as one PRU and Service but delivered across two sites. Pupil admissions will continue unchanged. Currently one Management committee oversees Hope Epsom and Guildford and there will be no change to existing staffing structures or staff working arrangements, many of which already work over both sites. With the Service being registered as one PRU both sites would be subject to one single Ofsted inspection, rather than two as they are now

## Admissions and pupils

9. There are no changes anticipated to pupil admission or arrangements made for students as a result of the proposal.

## Staffing and HR

10. No changes to staffing are anticipated, many staff work across both sites and there will be no differences to their working arrangements or patterns.

## Finance and Resourcing

11. One financial risk has been identified. Currently Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) for current PRUs is £4000 for the each site plus £3.75 per single registered pupil each. If the two were amalgamated then the combined PRU would only receive one lump sum of £4000, so by merging there would be a loss £4000 per year. PRUs do not attract split site funding in the same way that school are able to. The management committee has accepted this reduction in funding and believes that the benefits of the formal amalgamation outweigh the loss of £4000 per year of DFC funding.

## Consultations, approvals and overall timescales

12. It is proposed that the PRUs are amalgamated from 1 January 2016. The proposed changes are described as “prescribed alterations” and require a

period of consultation, the publication of statutory Notices and the agreement of Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement if the proposal is to proceed.

13. The first stage of consultation will be informal and is proposed to run until 12 noon on 7 October 2015. During this period the Local Authority will share its proposals with the wider professional network, schools including headteachers and Chairs of Governors, with unions, Parent representatives, partner agencies and with the staff and parents of the service subject to "prescribed alterations".
14. Following the informal consultation period it is proposed to publish a Statutory Notice for a 4 week period. The publication of Notices is when the Local Authority formally states that it intends to implement the proposed changes. This will be the final opportunity for consultees to make their views known before a final decision is taken.
15. Following the consultation periods officers will summarise the feedback and will report to the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement in December 2015 for a decision to be made.

## Have your say

Surrey County Council and The Hope would like to know what people in the area feel about the proposal. The consultation will open on **Wednesday 23 September 2015**.

You can respond by:

a) Accessing the consultation online on the 'Surrey Says' website: [www.surreysays.co.uk](http://www.surreysays.co.uk) and searching for the school's consultation (school name or post code), or by scrolling through the list of open consultations.

b) Completing the consultation response form that is available alongside this document. You can email the form or print it, complete it and send it back to the address below.

Julie Beckett (Hope Amalgamation)  
Room 326, County Hall  
Penrhyn Road  
Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2DJ

FAO Julie Beckett (Hope Amalgamation) to:  
[schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk)

All responses must be received by 12 noon on Wednesday 7 October 2015

## What happens next?

We will hold a public meeting for parents and any other interested parties to discuss the proposals and to hear the views that people have. As a public meeting, anyone who wishes to may attend. These meetings will be on **Tuesday 29 September 3.30 pm at Hope, Guildford** and **Wednesday 30 September 3.15 pm at Hope, Epsom**. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting and there is no need to pre-register your attendance.

Please come and share your views. You do not have to have a child at the school to come to the meeting.

At the end of the consultation period, we will review all of the responses received and share these with the school and publish them on the Surrey Says website.

On Monday 12 October 2015, we intend to publish a Statutory Notice at the school, in a local newspaper and on the Surrey Says website stating our intention to amalgamate the centres. There will be a 4 week statutory consultation period for further representations to be received by the council. The formal consultation period is due to end on Monday 16 November 2015.

All representations will be reviewed before a final decision is taken by the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement in December 2015.