

## Equality Impact Assessment – Proposal for a Primary Academy on the Putney Hospital site

Department	Children's Services Department
Decision	The Executive is recommended to authorise officers to publish a notice to advertise for proposals from school providers to set up a 2 form entry (2FE) primary academy on the Putney Hospital site.
Involved in preparation	Planning and Development Team, Policy, Planning, Review & Information team, and the Directorate, Wandsworth Children's Services

<b>Key dates for the assessment</b>
1. EIA completed 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2012. Invite bids from potential education providers

### **1. Aims of the decision**

The aim of this decision is to authorise officers to publish a notice to advertise for proposals from school providers to set up a 2 form entry (2FE) primary academy on the Putney Hospital site. Progression of the new school proposal is subject to implementing the new regulations as described in the report, to formally invite potential providers submit proposals against a set criteria to run a new academy.

## **2. Rationale behind the decision?**

The Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient schools in the local area (Education Act 1996 Section 14) and to secure diversity of provision of schools and increase opportunities for parental choice (Education Act 1996, Section 14 (3A) added by (Education and Inspections Act 2006, Section 2)

The Council's policy regarding schools is to promote choice and diversity for parents and carers in the availability of local schools and to ensure that there are adequate school places to meet demographic need. The Wandsworth birth rate has risen significantly over the last few years and this has resulted in significant pressure on primary school places. One of the areas under pressure is the Thamesfield Ward. Projections indicate the need for at least an additional 1.5FE (i.e. 315 places) to meet the demand in this area.

The committee report highlights the Putney Academy will create additional school places to meet the need to provide more primary school places for residents living in and around the Thamesfield ward area.

## **3. Which organisations will have the opportunity to contribute to the EIA?**

Two consultation events took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at All Saints Church. The events were well attended and 85 residents completed feedback forms.

An exhibition on March 19th 2012 was organised by Children's Services to coincide with the Planning Services statutory consultation period. The proposal was to make residents aware that the application had been submitted and for them to be able to view all the planning submission documents. This exhibition was in addition to the application being available at the Town Hall and to view on-line at the Planning Website. Leaflets were also made available giving direction on how comments/objections could be made to Planning Services.

Following the consultation events the scheme, the proposed plans were reviewed and changes made. The size of the school was reduced by removing the proposed nursery reducing the pupil numbers by 50. There were also resident concerns about the increase in traffic congestion in the Lower Richmond Road. To respond to these concerns a larger drop off/pick up area was integrated into the design to prevent vehicles stopping on the Lower Richmond Road.

The Planning Applications Committee is now expected to consider the application on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

<b>4. Data held on the likely impact of the decision in relation to protected characteristics</b>		
	List data held	Gaps in information
Overall	Consultation process 85 residents completed feedback forms	None known
Race	Ethnic breakdown for the schools in the Thamesfield Ward	Latest census information is not yet available. Information on school population is included to mitigate against this.
Gender	Gender breakdown of schools in the Thamesfield Ward	
Disability	SEN breakdown of schools in the Thamesfield Ward	
Age	The Putney Academy will provide education for children aged from 4-11	
Faith	None	Information not currently collected. The proposed school is non-denominational.
Sexual Orientation	None	Information not currently collected.

**5. What does available information show in relation to the potential impact of the proposed policy? What is the impact on different groups? Please give details**

The EIA has reviewed the profile of existing primary schools in the Thamesfield ward (the proposed site of the new primary Academy by the BME, Gender and SEN equality categories to assess whether it is likely the proposal will have an adverse impact on the equality profile of the schools in the area. A concern from the consultation was that traffic congestion may increase. The Council will be promoting a positive and more sustainable travel strategy for the new primary school. The School Travel Plan will prioritise reducing travel by private car and encourage staff and pupils to travel by more sustainable modes including walking, cycling and bus use.

## Race

The table below shows the BME profile of school in the Thamesfield Ward.

There are significantly fewer BME pupils in the primary schools in the Thamesfield ward compared with the borough average in Wandsworth. A new school is likely to reflect a similar pattern. The additional capacity provided by the proposed Academy will ensure all communities in Thamesfield and nearby wards have improved access to primary places by September 2015.

Schools in Thamesfield ward	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other	BME total	White	Unknown
All Saints CE School	3.5%	2.7%	9.2%	0.4%	15.8%	83.8%	0.4%
St Marys CE School	2.4%	4.3%	11.8%	2.4%	20.9%	78.7%	0.4%
Hotham School	9.1%	16%	11.9%	5%	42%	55.5%	2.5%
Our Lady of Victories	0.0%	0.5%	9.6%	3.6%	13.7%	83.2%	3%
<b>Average across the 4 ward schools</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>10.8%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>25.3%</b>	<b>79.8%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
<b>Primary school average in Wandsworth</b>	<b>16.5%</b>	<b>25.3%</b>	<b>11.9%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>57.2%</b>	<b>41.9%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>

## Gender

The table below shows the gender breakdown of schools in the Thamesfield Ward. The borough average for male pupils is 50.7%. The average for the 4 schools in Thamesfield Ward is close to this figure at 49.9%. This suggested that the decision to develop an Academy in the ward would not have a negative impact on the gender profile.

Schools in Thamesfield Ward	Male	Female
All Saints CE School	58.3%	51.5%
ST Marys CE School	45.7%	54.3%
Hotham School	54.4%	45.6%
Our Lady of Victories	49.2%	50.8%
<b>Average across the 4 ward schools</b>	<b>49.9%</b>	<b>50.1%</b>

## Disability

The new school would have the usual admission arrangements i.e. priority for admission would be given in the following order: a) Children Looked After; b) children with an exceptional medical or social need for a place; c) siblings of existing pupils and d) children living nearest to the school.

The funding agreement requires the proposed Academy to have regard for the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2001) and any guidance issues relating to sections 316 and 316A of the Education Act. It also requires the proposed Academy to “use its best endeavours to, in exercising its functions in relation to the school, to secure that, if any registered pupil has special educational needs, the special educational needs provision which the pupil’s learning difficulty calls for is made”.

The table below shows that the total number of pupils with a Special Educational Need compared to the borough average is very low 7% against the borough average of 24.7%. However the number of pupils with an SEN statement is slightly more than the borough average due to the number of pupils at Hotham school who have a Statement (5.2%).

As this is a new school, it will be built to be fully compliant with Part M of the Building Regulations and will be fully wheelchair accessible, making it a possible choice for many disabled pupils.

Schools in Thamesfield Ward	School Action	School Action+	SEN Statement	Any SEN
All Saints CE School	5%	4.6%	1.5%	6.1%
ST Marys CE School	1.6%	9.1%	1.6%	10.7%
Hotham School	0.3%	8.6%	5.2%	8.9%
Our Lady of Victories	9.1%	1%	1.5%	2.5%
<b>Average across the 4 ward schools</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>7.8%</b>
<b>Borough Average</b>	<b>14.3%</b>	<b>8.4%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>24.7%</b>

## Faith

The proposed academy would be non-denominational and therefore is unlikely to have a negative impact on pupils with regard to their faith or beliefs. It will provide religious education and collective worship provision in line with that offered in other non-denominational maintained schools. Three of the four schools in the Thamesfield Ward are faith schools, a further non-denominational school will increase choice.

Information on the faith of pupils in schools is not consistently collected and therefore it is not possible to estimate the potential impact of the proposals on the school population.

## **Age**

The proposed academy would provide Primary education for children aged 4 -11 and therefore would have a positive impact for young people.

## **Sexual Orientation**

Information on sexual orientation is not collected so it has not been possible to assess the impact in this area.

<b>6. What does your review of the information show?</b>	<b>Evidence for your answer</b>
a )No impact continue with policy	Data in relation to gender, ethnicity and disability shows that the cohort of the proposed Academy is likely to broadly reflect the profile of the other schools in the area. The evidence suggests that the arrangements, in terms of admissions and the funding agreement for the proposed Academy school would have no significant impact on young people and their families in relation to the protected characteristic groups.
b) Adjust policy in light of impact	
c)Continue with the policy despite impact	
d) stop policy	

<b>7. Have you identified any actions that will improve the proposed policy or mitigate any negative impact?</b>
None. However feedback from the consultation has resulted in two significant planning changes. The pupil roll has been reduced (by removing the nursery provision). The transport considerations have been reviewed which has included amending the arrangements for drop off/pick up parking and promoting a School Plan which will encourage other modes of transport for staff and parent/carers rather than driving to and from school.


<b>8. What future monitoring and evaluation tools will be appropriate and effective?</b>	
Race	Admission details and attainment performance indicators
Gender	Admission details and attainment performance indicators
Disability	Admission details and attainment performance indicators
Faith	Not collected
Age	Not required
Sexual Orientation	Not collected

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