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East Ayrshire
COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL SERVICES

A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT

The proposals in this consultation document have implications for:

- **The Hearing Impairment Unit at Grange Academy,**
- **Grange Academy,**

This document has been issued by East Ayrshire Council Education Committee for consultation in terms of the Education (Publications and Consultation etc) (Scotland) Regulation 1981 and Amendment Regulation 1987, 1988 and 1989.

**EAST AYRSHIIRE COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL SERVICES**

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- The proposal to assimilate the Hearing Impairment Unit at Grange Academy, Kilmarnock into Grange Academy.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** The Hearing Impairment Unit at Grange Academy was established by Strathclyde Regional Council in 1980. At the time of establishment it served all of Ayrshire by making provision for deaf children within a mainstream secondary-aged setting. By consent of all three Ayrshire Authorities it continues to exercise that function today.
- 1.2** As an educational unit, its management arrangements reflect a previous time. In particular, it used to have a close working and managerial relationship with West Park School, Crosshouse which was closed in 1999. At present, although situated on the Grange campus, with children attending Grange Academy, it is technically an independent unit.
- 1.3** This status has two effects which require this review. The conditions of Section 15 of the Standards in Scotland's Schools Act, 2000 make a presumption of mainstream education. Enrolment in Grange Academy Hearing Impairment Unit means that children are not in a formal sense enrolled in a mainstream setting. Secondly, the formalisation of management structures under "A Teaching Profession for the 21st Century", require that the status of the unit should be clarified within the mainstream school for job-sizing purposes.
- 1.4** **This paper has, as its principal focus, a change in the management of hearing impairment unit at Grange Academy.**

2. PRESENT POSITION

- 2.1** The pattern of support for children with a hearing impairment is complex. For those being educated within a mainstream school, support may be provided by the Hearing Impairment Peripatetic Service, based in Crosshouse. The peripatetic service is jointly supported by the three Ayrshire education authorities, but managed by East Ayrshire Council. There is a specialist primary education facility at Towerlands Primary School, Irvine with secondary education being provided by the Grange Academy hearing impairment unit. By mutual agreement between the three Ayrshire authorities children have attended the Towerlands Unit and the Grange Unit, irrespective of where they live in Ayrshire. Funding for the education of individual children and young people has been managed under the arrangements arising from section 23 of

the Education (Scotland) Act, 1980. Any child or young person with more severe needs than can be met in a mainstream setting are directed towards specialist placements.

2.2 Grange Academy

Grange Academy is situated in Kilmarnock and provides secondary education to children and young people from the central, eastern and southern areas of the town. The capacity of the school is 1582. Grange Academy presently houses the base for the Visual Impairment Peripatetic Team, the Hearing Impairment Unit which is the subject of this consultation and a Gaelic Medium Unit. In the future, Park School and Annanhill Primary School will share the campus under the authority's plans to modernise the accommodation under the "Building Learning Communities" initiative.

2.3 The Hearing Impairment Unit

The Grange Academy Hearing Impairment Unit comprises a specialist base located in E block of the school. It was established in the early 1980s. Children are educated in the base and in mainstream classes, with support. The base itself has been specifically adapted to suit the needs of deaf children. Staff are experienced in working in the hearing impairment field and have developed specialist skills, for example in sign language.

The unit serves all of Ayrshire.

3. PROPOSAL

3.1 It is proposed that the Grange Academy Hearing Impairment Unit should be designated as a facility within the structure of Grange Academy as a single educational establishment.

3.2 The principal effects of this will be:

- the budget for the unit will be ring-fenced and managed by the head teacher of Grange Academy as part of the resource available to the whole school;
- hearing impairment staff will be regarded as being part of Grange Academy for all day-to-day purposes;
- management arrangements for the unit will be rationalised under "A Teaching Profession for the 21st Century" with the appointment of a principal teacher.
- all policies and procedures within Grange Academy will apply to the Hearing Impairment Unit and staff, pupils and parents will be appropriately consulted;
- children will be enrolled in Grange Academy rather than the Unit;
- the facility will draw on the wider staff and services available to the learning partnership; and
- curriculum planning for the facility will take place within the overall learning and teaching framework for the school with a particular focus on integrated delivery.

3.3 As at present staffing and resources for the unit will be provided to meet the children's special educational needs. These will continue to be costed separately to ensure that young people's needs are being met effectively. Management of the budget will pass explicitly to the headteacher of Grange Academy.

4. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROPOSAL

4.1 This proposal will clarify and rationalise the management arrangements for the HI unit. The accountability for its day-to-day running will be clearer. Quality improvement and service planning arrangements will be better harmonised with the rest of the school. Arrangements for professional review and development together with continuing professional development will be clearer. In this way it will be easier to manage the integration of children into the mainstream school setting.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The proposal as outlined in Section 3 would have implications for teaching and support staff at Grange Academy and in the HI unit itself. All members of staff will be fully consulted. The particular wishes of each member of staff will be taken into consideration. Parents of children in the HI unit, the school board of Grange Academy, and the young people involved will also be consulted.

5.2 This proposal will be of interest to North and South Ayrshire Councils. The Grange Hearing Impairment base presently forms part of the provision accessed by each authority

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee agree to adopt the proposal that:

- (i) The Hearing Impairment Unit be assimilated within the management arrangements for Grange Academy.
- (ii) The responsibility for all aspects of the management of the HI Unit should pass to the headteacher of Grange Academy.
- (iii) Issues related to the assimilation of the unit into Grange Academy will be resolved under the arrangements for "A Teaching Profession for the 21st Century".
- (iv) all other aspects of the management arrangements related to the facility will be changed in line with this proposal.
- (v) This change will take effect from January 2005 or as soon as possible thereafter.

It is further recommended that:

- (i) all interested parties be invited to make written or electronic submissions on the proposal to the Executive Director (Educational and Social Services), East Ayrshire Council, Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock KA3 7BU, E-mail: john.mulgrew@east-ayrshire.gov.uk no later than 22 October 2004.
- (ii) the Director prepare a report on the results of the consultative process for consideration at a future meeting of the Education Committee.

GRS/MM
09/09/2004