

Statutory proposal for a prescribed alteration

Proposal to Alter the Lower Age Range at Strong Close Nursery School to include 2 year olds

School and Local Authority details:

Strong Close Nursery School, Airedale Road, Keighley, BD21 4LW

Local Authority - City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, City Hall, Bradford BD1 1HY

Description of alteration:

The proposal is to alter the lower age range from age 3 to 2 at Strong Close Nursery School making provision for up to 48 part time 2 year old pupils to be admitted to the nursery school with effect from 1 September 2018.

The school currently caters for pupils aged 3 to 5 (inclusive) and the proposal is to alter the lower age range to cater for pupils aged 2 to 5 (inclusive).

The current capacity of the school is 233 square metres, 172.6 square metres would be used by children aged 3 and 4 years, the remainder would be space for 2 year old children.

The current number of 3 and 4 year old children attending the school is 98 part time. The proposal would make provision for up to 48 part time 2 year old pupils to be admitted to the nursery school.

No new or additional site is required for this change.

Evidence of demand:

Strong Close Day Nursery, which has now closed, has consistently delivered 36 part time places for 2 year old children for the last 3 terms. When the day nursery was opened there were sufficient places in the area, however with the day nursery closing there are now not enough providers with vacancies or the capacity to absorb this number of children. The 2 year old places that Strong Close Nursery School propose to deliver will close the sufficiency gap and should have no impact on providers in the area.

Consultation:

The Local Authority consulted interested parties and the consultation process started on 4 May 2018 and closed on 25 May 2018. A summary of the responses to the consultation is attached.

Objectives:

The objectives of the proposal are to change the lower age range of the nursery school from 3 - 5 years (inclusive) to 2 - 5 years (inclusive) due to lack of provision for 2 year old nursery places in this area.

This proposal will support the children and families within the local area with a focus on disadvantaged two year olds who are less likely to have experienced play and learning opportunities outside the home, and might fail to achieve their full potential. We can anticipate a significant gap between their outcomes and those of their less disadvantaged peer groups.

Early Education for two year olds seeks to redress some of that imbalance. Research has shown that access to quality early education improves children's outcomes and this provision forms the significant part of early education for two year olds.

There is strong evidence that early education makes a positive difference to young children. The 'Effective Provision of Pre-school Education' study found that high quality early education has particularly strong impacts on the cognitive and social development of disadvantaged children, and that these benefits last throughout primary school.

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation:

The proposal is to alter the lower age range from age 3 to 2 at Strong Close Nursery School with effect from 1 September 2018.

Project Costs:

There would be no costs to the Local Authority to implement the proposed changes to the lower age range at Strong Close Nursery School.

Objections and comments:

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, i.e. by 5pm on 5 July 2018, any person or organisation may object, support or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Nina Mewse, School Provision and Places Officer, 1st Floor Margaret McMillan Tower, Princes Way, Bradford, BD1 1NN or email educationconsultation@bradford.gov.uk

Summary of responses to consultation on Altering the Age Range at Strong Close Nursery School

Consultation was open between 4 May 2018 and 25 May 2018

Breakdown of responses (17):

Group	Agree	Disagree	Other
Parent or child attending the nursery			
Parent of other child under 3 years			
School Governor			
Staff member	1		
Councillor or MP			
Member of Local Community	2	3	
Other Childcare Provider	2	2	
Local School	4		
Other	2	1	
Total	11	6	0

Responses in support of the Proposal

- This would create places and give good opportunities to children in disadvantaged areas.
- The nursery school has a good reputation and this would extend their services to more children.
- There would otherwise be a shortage of provision due to the closure of the private Strong Close day nursery.

Responses against the Proposal

- 2 year olds are not used to the structure and rigour that schools seem to place around their attendance and the delivery of the EYFS.
- Plenty of nurseries and pre-schools in Keighley, there would be an impact on other providers and nurseries.
- Why should they, parents should look after 2 year olds.
- The Pre-School Learning Alliance (PSLA) has just recently been closed with minimal notice to all parents, which accommodated this age range, these have re-located. Staff have just been made redundant. Tainted with previous actions/ behaviours.