

Report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services to the meeting of Executive Committee to be held on 10 July 2018

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Subject:

Change in age ranges of children at Hirst Wood Nursery School, Lilycroft Nursery School and Strong Close Nursery School.

Summary statement:

This report asks the Executive to approve the unrelated proposals to change the lower age range of children attending Hirst Wood Nursery School, Lilycroft Nursery School and Strong Close Nursery School from 3 - 5 years to 2 – 5 years as from 1 September 2018.

Michael Jameson
Strategic Director –
Children's Services

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Portfolio:

Children's Services

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

This report asks the Executive to approve the unrelated proposals to change the lower age range of children attending Hirst Wood Nursery School, Lilycroft Nursery School and Strong Close Nursery School from 3 - 5 years to 2 – 5 years as from 1 September 2018.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Hirst Wood Nursery School

2.1.1 Piccolo's Day Nursery on the Saltaire Primary School site has closed and the nursery school is receiving demands from parents to offer 2 year old places. They have requested that the age range be lowered from 3-5 year olds to 2-5 year olds to enable them to offer up to 36 part time 2 year old places from 1 September 2018.

2.1.2 This proposal would 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.

2.1.3 Piccolo's Nursery consistently delivered 10 places to funded 2 year old children who, on a whole, lived less than ½ mile from their provision. There are further 10-12 children who are not accessing their funded place within ½ mile.

2.1.4 There are sufficient places within a mile of the provision but the parents are not accessing these. Parents are expressing that they wish to take up places within Hirst Wood Nursery School as they have siblings currently attending the nursery school and find the school more accessible than the childcare providers.

2.2 Lilycroft Nursery School

2.2.1 Lilycroft Nursery Governing Body currently hold an Early Years Ofsted registration for 0-5 year olds at 56 Toller Lane Bradford BD8 8QH under which they provide 2 year old funded entitlement places and paid for childcare.

2.2.2 The Nursery School are proposing to reconfigure the service to provide 2 year old funded entitlement places and paid for childcare to be delivered by the school Lilycroft Road, Bradford, BD9 5AD.

2.2.3 The nursery school have therefore requested that the age range of the nursery school be lowered from 3-5 year olds to 2-5 year olds to enable them to offer up to 64 part time 2 year old places from 1 September 2018.

2.2.4 This would 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.

2.2.5 Lilycroft Nursery under the Governing Body with their Ofsted registered site has consistently delivered up to 70 part time two year old funded places for the last 3 terms. There are insufficient places within ½ mile of the school if this provision does not operate.

2.2.6 As these proposed places are not new places but merely being relocated to

the school site this will not have any impact on other providers in the area

2.3 Strong Close Nursery School

- 2.3.1 The Pre-school Learning Alliance who own Strong Close Day Nursery has closed the day nursery.
- 2.3.2 Strong Close Nursery School want to be able to offer parents 2 year old provision, so the Local Authority is proposing to lower the age range to enable them to offer up to 48 part time 2 year old places at the Nursery School from 1 September 2018.
- 2.3.3 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.
- 2.3.4 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.
- 2.3.5 This would 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

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consultation

3.1 Hirst Wood Nursery School

- 3.1.1 Informal consultation took places between 23 April and 25 May 2018, from a total of which 37 responses were made, see table below:

Group	Agree	Disagree	Other
Parent or child attending the nursery	16	1	
Parent of other child under 3 years	3		1
School Governor	2		
Staff member	1		
Councillor or MP	0		
Member of Local Community	3		
Other Childcare Provider	0	2	
Local School	5		
Other	3		
Total	33	3	1

Responses in support of the Proposal

- A number of comments showed they felt that the provision and education at Hirst Wood Nursery is excellent, lowering the age range would allow more children to access this.
- It is recognised that early education provision is important especially for disadvantaged children, this proposal would support this.
- Some respondents commented that the change in age range will enable access to children who have been displaced or would not have a nursery to attend due to the closure of the private nursery.

Responses against the Proposal

- This proposal would take children away from private childcare business.
- There are enough places in the local area so there isn't enough demand.
- Siblings will be separated if the offer is for 2 years and not for babies.

A full list of comments extracted from the responses is shown in Appendix E.

3.1.2 The Statutory Proposal was published on 7 June 2018 and No responses have been received during the representation period.

During the representation period between 7 June and 5 July 2018 any person could submit comments on and objections to the proposal to the Local Authority to be taken into account by the decision maker.

3.2 Lilycroft Nursery School

3.2.1 Informal consultation took places between 23 April and 25 May 2018, from a total of which 13 responses were received. 4 agreed with the proposal 6 were against.

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

Responses in support of the Proposal

- The case is made by the Headteacher – it is a necessity.
- Lilycroft nursery school offers outstanding provision and it would be fantastically beneficial to widen the impact to include younger children. We wholeheartedly support this application to continue to share high quality early years across the district.
- Children accessing 2 year education will continue onto 3 year education which is better for them. They will already be familiar not only with the site but the staff too.

Responses against the Proposal

- Will affect our small business and settings.
- Will affect childminders.
- The basis of our objection is that the reach area in question is already well served by 5 providers and that there is insufficient demand to warrant extending the number of providers of the 2 year old offer in the reach.

Neither Agree nor Disagree

- Although I am happy for this to move forward I think consideration to the other school nurseries should be taken when places are allocated. The earlier we can take. The earlier we can take children in to formal nurseries the more impact we can have.
 - Feel ok about this as long as it would not limit parent choice.
 - It depends upon the situation. For working parents it could be a good idea but otherwise it's a young age when children should be learning at home rather than attending school.
- A full list of comments extracted from the responses is show in Appendix F.

3.2.2 The Statutory Proposal was published on 7 June 2018 and during the representation period between 7 June and 5 July 2018 any person could submit comments on and objections to the proposal to the Local Authority to be taken into account by the decision maker.

No responses have been received during the representation period.

3.3 Strong Close Nursery School

3.3.1 Informal consultation took places between 4 May and 25 May 2018, from a total of which 17 responses were received. 11 agreed with the proposal 6 were against, 5 of which were private providers.

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.

A full list of comments extracted from the responses is show in Appendix G.

3.3.2 The Statutory Proposal was published on 7 June 2018 and during the representation period between 7 June and 5 July 2018 any person could submit comments on and objections to the proposal to the Local Authority to be taken into account by the decision maker.
No responses have been received during the representation period

3.4 Not every child is eligible for a funded 'Early Education for Two Year Olds'. The eligibility criteria have been set by the government, not the school. Funded places at our proposed two year old nursery would be available to the following children:

3.4.1 Whose parents are in receipt of an income-related benefit, which are:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit*
- Tax credits and you have an annual income of under £16,190 before tax
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

3.4.2 A child can also get free early education and childcare if any of the following apply:

- they're looked after by a Local Authority
- they have a current statement of special education needs (SEN) or an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan
- they get Disability Living Allowance
- they've left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order

3.4.3 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.

3.4.4 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

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1 Lowering the age range of Children attending the schools from 3-5 years to 2-5 years will provide opportunity for the school to offer places for 2 year olds

4.2 Eligible 2 year olds are entitled up to 15 hours of free early education and childcare place during term time which is funded via the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

If there are no significant risks arising out of the implementation of the proposed recommendations.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

6.1 There is no longer a statutory pre-publication period for proposed significant changes to schools. However, statutory DfE guidance states that there is a strong expectation on schools and Local Authorities that they consult interested parties in developing their proposals prior to publication as part of their duty to act rationally and to take into account all relevant considerations. All responses received to such consultations must be considered in deciding whether to publish the necessary statutory proposals on the basis proposed.

6.2 For proposed changes that are expected to be in place for more than two years Local Authorities must follow a statutory process when they propose a change to the lower age range of 1 year or more for community schools including the adding of nursery provision

6.3 On 30 May 2018 the Strategic Director of Children's Services approved the publication of unrelated statutory proposals to alter the lower age range of Hirst Wood, Lilycroft and Strong Close Nursery Schools to include 2 year olds.

6.3.1 Statutory proposals were published on 7 June 2018 with a four week Representation Period during which period any person or organisation could submit

comments on or objections to the proposals to the Council to be taken into account by the decision maker.

6.3.2 These will be considered by the Executive in its capacity as decision-maker when it determines the proposals at the end of the Representation Period.

6.3.3 Executive can decide to reject, approve, approve with modifications, or approve subject to certain conditions e.g. granting of planning permission

6.4 The following factors need to be considered in deciding whether or not to approve Statutory Proposals. The Executive should:-

6.4.1 Be satisfied that: appropriate consultation and representation period has been carried out.

6.4.2 All comments and objections received must be considered by the Executive consider the quality and diversity of schools in the relevant area consider the demand for new school places

6.4.3 In assessing demand consider proposal admission arrangements have regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, consider impact on community cohesion; be satisfied that travel and accessibility has been properly taken in to account be satisfied that any land, premises or capital required to implement the proposal will be available; consider if the schools will be able to fulfil the legal requirement that suitable;outdoor space can be provided in order to enable physical education is provided to pupils in accordance with the school curriculum; and that pupils play outside.
The provision may be fulfilled by access to suitable facilities off-site

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

The Councils admission policy and admission criteria must not discriminate directly or indirectly against any group or individual.

Equalities Impact Assessment was completed on 25 June 2018

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

The proposals would not impact on gas emissions. If children are able to attend their local schools this could lead to a reduction in emissions.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct Community Safety Implications arising from this report.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

There are no direct Human Rights implications arising from this report.

7.6 TRADE UNION

Trade unions have been informed of the proposals.

The proposed increases in provision of the schools may lead to an increase in staffing levels.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

Ward Councillors have been consulted about the proposed changes to the schools in their wards.

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

There are no direct Corporate Parenting implications arising from this report.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

Privacy Impact Assessments are not required arising from this report.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. OPTIONS

Considering the results of the consultation the Executive can decide to:-

9.1 Hirst Wood Nursery School

a) Approve the proposal to change the lower age range from 3-5 years to 2-5 years at Hirst Wood Nursery School as from 1 September 2018.

or

b) Reject the proposal and retain the lower age range of the school as 3-5 years.

9.2 Lilycroft Nursery School

a) Approve the proposal to change the lower age range from 3-5 years to 2-5 years at Lilycroft Nursery School as from 1 September 2018.

or

b) Reject the proposal and retain the lower age range of the school as 3-5 years.

9.3 Strong Close Nursery School

a) Approve the proposal to change the lower age range from 3-5 years to 2-5 years at

Strong Close Nursery School as from 1 September 2018.

or

b) Reject the proposal and retain the lower age range of the school as 3-5 years.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That the Executive approve the proposal to change the lower age range at Hirst Wood Nursery School from 3-5 years to 2-5 years as from 1 September 2018.

10.2 That the Executive approve the proposal to change the lower age range at Lilycroft Nursery School from 3-5 years to 2-5 years as from 1 September 2018.

10.3 That the Executive approve the proposal to change the lower age range at Strong Close Nursery School from 3-5 years to 2-5 years as from 1 September 2018.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Sample consultation letter for Hirst Wood Nursery School

Appendix B: Sample consultation letter for Lilycroft Nursery School

Appendix C: Sample consultation letter for Strong Close Nursery School

Appendix D: List of consultees

Appendix E: All responses received for the Hirst Wood Consultation

Appendix F: All responses received for the Lilycroft Consultation

Appendix G: All responses received for the Strong Close Nursery School consultation

Appendix H: Equalities Impact Assessment

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

Early Years' Service,
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
On behalf of:
Hirst Wood Nursery School
3, Carlton Avenue,
Saltaire,
Shipley,
BD18 4NJ

Dear Parents/Carers

Consultation on lowering the age range of children at Hirst Wood Nursery School

We are consulting on lowering the age range of children who attend our school from 3-4 years old to 2-5 years old. This is because Piccolo's Day Nursery on the Saltaire Primary School site has closed and we have had demand from parents to offer 2 year old places. As a school we want to be able to offer parents 2 year old provision, so are proposing to lower the age range we can offer places from September 2018.

Not every child is eligible for a funded 'Early Education for Two Year Olds'. The eligibility criteria have been set by the government, not the school. Places at our proposed two year old nursery would be available to the following children:

Whose parents are in receipt of an income-related benefit, which are:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit*
- Tax credits and you have an annual income of under £16,190 before tax
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

A child can also get free early education and childcare if any of the following apply:

- they're looked after by a Local Authority
- they have a current statement of special education needs (SEN) or an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan
- they get Disability Living Allowance
- they've left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order

This development 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.

We would also look at providing other flexible offers of care to children who may not be eligible for a funded place, in line with our business plan.

This letter is to gain your views and comments about this proposal as part of the overall consultation. We will also be informing the local community and other stakeholders in the area, and seeking their views.

The consultation process will begin on Monday 23rd April and continues until Friday 25th May after which a full analysis and report with recommendations will be made to the Director of Children's Services, who will decide if Statutory Notices will be published as part of the formal consultation.

Any comments or suggestions can be made on the attached form which can be sent or handed in to the school office. Or if you prefer you can answer the on-line consultation on the [Bradford Council website](#).

Yours sincerely

Jayne Taylor
Head of School

Consultation on lowering the age range of children at Hirst Wood Nursery School

We are consulting on lowering the age range of children who attend our school from 3-4 years old to 2-4 years old. This is because Piccolo's Day Nursery on the Saltaire Primary School site has closed and we have had demand from parents to offer 2 year old places.

As a school we want to be able to offer provision from 2 years old, so are asking your opinion on lowering the school age range

The consultation process will begin on Monday 23rd April and continue until Friday 25th May after which a full analysis and report with recommendations will be made to the Director of Children's Services, who will decide if Statutory Notices will be published as part of the formal consultation.

1. Please indicate which applies to you:

- Parent of a child in our school
- Parent of a child under three years old
- Governor at Hirst Wood Nursery School
- Staff member of Hirst Wood Nursery School
- Local resident
- Councillor or MP
- Day Nursery/ Pre-school provider/childminder
- Local school
- Other interest group (please describe)

2. Do you agree that the school lower their age range in order to accommodate 2 year old children?

- Yes
- No
- Neither agree or disagree
- Other

3. Please state the reason for your answer

4. Any Other Comments on the proposal?

Your name

Signed Date.....

Thank you of taking the time to comment. Please return by **25th May** 2018 at the latest.
Please return to the office:

Hirst Wood Nursery School, 3, Carlton Avenue, Saltaire, Shipley, BD18 4NJ

Early Years' Service,
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
On behalf of:
Lilycroft Nursery School
Lilycroft Road,
Bradford,
BD9 5AD

Dear Parents/Carers

Consultation on lowering the age range of children at Lilycroft Nursery School

We are consulting on lowering the age range of children who attend our school from 3-5 years old to 2-5 years old.

Lilycroft Nursery Governing Body currently hold an Early Years Ofsted registration for 0-5 year olds at 56 Toller Lane Bradford BD8 8QH under which they provide 2 year old funded entitlement places and paid for childcare. We would like to reconfigure the service to offer 2-5s provision including paid for childcare to be delivered on by the school at Lilycroft Road, Bradford, BD9 5AD.

We propose to lower the age range of the school to offer places for 2 year olds from September 2018.

Not every child is eligible for a funded 'Early Education for Two Year Olds'. The eligibility criteria have been set by the government, not the school. Funded places at our proposed two year old nursery would be available to the following children:

Whose parents are in receipt of an income-related benefit, which are:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit*
- Tax credits and you have an annual income of under £16,190 before tax
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

A child can also get free early education and childcare if any of the following apply:

- they're looked after by a Local Authority
- they have a current statement of special education needs (SEN) or an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan
- they get Disability Living Allowance
- they've left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order

This development 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.

This letter is to gain your views and comments about this proposal as part of the overall consultation. We will also be informing the local community and other stakeholders in the area, and seeking their views.

The consultation process will begin on Monday 23rd April and continues until Friday 25th May after which a full analysis and report with recommendations will be made to the Director of Children's Services, who will decide if Statutory Notices will be published as part of the formal consultation.

Any comments or suggestions can be made on the attached form which can be sent or handed in to the school office. Or if you prefer you can answer the on-line consultation on the [Bradford Council website](#).

Yours sincerely

Sian Young
Head of School
Lilycroft Nursery School

Consultation on lowering the age range of children at Lilycroft Nursery School

We are consulting on lowering the age range of children who attend our school from 3-5 years old to 2-5 years old.

The consultation process will begin on 23rd April and continue until Friday 25th May after which a full analysis and report with recommendations will be made to the Director of Children’s Services, who will decide if Statutory Notices will be published as part of the formal consultation.

5. Please indicate which applies to you:

- Parent of a child in our school
- Parent of a child under three years old
- Governor at Lilycroft Nursery School
- Staff member of Lilycroft Nursery School
- Local resident
- Councillor or MP
- Day Nursery/ Pre-school provider/childminder
- Local school
- Other interest group (please describe)

6. Do you agree that the school lower their age range in order to accommodate 2 year old children?

- Yes
- No
- Neither agree or disagree
- Other

7. Please state the reason for your answer

8. Any Other Comments on the proposal?

Your name

Signed Date.....

Thank you of taking the time to comment. Please return by **25th May 2018** at the latest.

Please return to:

Early Years' Service,
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
On behalf of:
Strong Close Nursery School
Airedale Road
Keighley
BD21 4LW

Dear Parents/Carers

Consultation on lowering the age range of children at Strong Close Nursery School

We are consulting on lowering the age range of children who attend our school from 3-5 years old to 2-5 years old. This is because Pre-school Learning Alliance who own Strong Close Day Nursery has closed the day nursery. As a school we want to be able to offer parents 2 year old provision, so are proposing to lower the age range we can offer places from September 2018.

Not every child is eligible for a funded 'Early Education for Two Year Olds'. The eligibility criteria have been set by the government, not the school. Places at our proposed two year old nursery would be available to the following children:

Whose parents are in receipt of an income-related benefit, which are:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit*
- Tax credits and you have an annual income of under £16,190 before tax
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

A child can also get free early education and childcare if any of the following apply:

- they're looked after by a Local Authority
- they have a current statement of special education needs (SEN) or an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan
- they get Disability Living Allowance
- they've left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order

This development 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.

We would also look at providing other flexible offers of care to children who may not be eligible for a funded place, in line with our business plan.

This letter is to gain your views and comments about this proposal as part of the overall consultation. We will also be informing the local community and other stakeholders in the area, and seeking their views.

The consultation process will begin on Monday 16th April and continues until Friday 25th May after which a full analysis and report with recommendations will be made to the Council's Executive Committee for a decision to be made.

Any comments or suggestions can be made on the attached form which can be sent or handed in to the school office. Or if you prefer you can answer the on-line consultation on the [Bradford Council website](#).

Yours sincerely

Sharon Hogan

Acting Executive Headteacher

Consultation on lowering the age range of children at Strong Close Nursery School

We are consulting on lowering the age range of children who attend our school from 3-5 years old to 2-5 years old. This is because Strong Close Day Nursery who is owned by Pre-school Learning Alliance have closed their day nursery that currently offers places for 2 year olds.

As a school we want to be able to offer provision from 2 year old, so are asking your opinion on lowering the school age range

The consultation process will begin on Friday 4 May and continue until Friday 25th May after which a full analysis and report with recommendations will be made to the Director of Children's Services, who will decide if Statutory Notices will be published as a part of formal consultation.

9. Please indicate which applies to you:

- Parent of a child in our school
- Parent of a child under three years old
- Governor at Strong Close Nursery School
- Staff member of Strong Close Nursery School
- Local resident
- Councillor or MP
- Day Nursery/ Pre-school provider/childminder
- Local school
- Other interest group (please describe)

10. Do you agree that the school lower their age range in order to accommodate 2 year old children?

- Yes
- No
- Neither agree or disagree
- Other

11. Please state the reason for your answer

12. Any Other Comments on the proposal?

Your name

Signed

Date.....

Thank you of taking the time to comment. Please return by **25th May 2018** at the latest.
Please return to:

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

List of Consultees

- Chairs of Governors
- Parents/Carers of children attending the nursery schools.
- School Staff
- Strategic Director and Assistant Directors Children's Services
- All Councillors
- Neighbourhood Forums
- Keighley Town Council
- All Schools
- Catholic Diocese
- Church of England Diocese
- Council for Mosques
- Muslim Association
- Children's Services Managers
- Members of Parliament
- Other Early Years providers and Playgroups
- Private/Independent Schools
- Strategic Relationship Manager (School Improvement)
- Unions
- Bradford Schools Online (BSO)
- Bradford Council website
- Media
- Twitter
- Facebook
- Education Client Services

Extracted Comments from responses to consultation to lower age range at Hirst Wood Nursery School

Agree:

Parental requests in the area

The case is made by the Head Teacher:

From personal experience I know how tricky it is to get a place at a good quality nursery locally. Good ones are either full or too far to combine with school drop off for my older child. Staying in the nursery for 2 years rather than 1 would help children settle and develop better

This nursery school provides excellent education for its current children so lowering the age can only be a benefit for more children.

It would be good to offer this so parents would have good quality education from an earlier age. Would like it to be from Birth.

Hirst Wood is a fantastic nursery with excellent facilities to care for not only older children but also for 2 year olds

If Hirstwood was to lower the age the children can attend the children will have a great start in life. Plus babies shouldn't be put into a nursery unless absolutely necessary. It is up to the school if they can manage and have the right trained people.

I agree entirely with the principle of providing access to quality early education to improve outcomes for children. My son attended here and the level of care and provision received contributed significantly to his development socially, emotionally and academically and to his school readiness for reception.

Early education has shown to have a positive impact in areas of disadvantage

With the increase of funded childcare the demand has increased for nursery places. Locally nurseries are full. Hirstwood nursery has very good facilities, devoted staff, lovely outside= happy children. I've no doubt the 2 year old will be a success

Because of the importance of early education & the fact places for pre-school children will always be taken up

Will be good for me as a mum

The 2 year old will make the HWN more attractive to parents and more financially stable for the future. The nursery would provide good quality provision for 2 year olds and exceptional outdoor space that could be used for them.

I have a 2 year old child I would like to attend the nursery and have not placed him elsewhere as I want him to attend Hirst Wood only as it is a nursery school. I think it would provide good quality

As a single parent I would have appreciated the choice. I do think it's a good idea however this arrangement could be difficult to allocate places and some parents may take advantage. It may be extremely popular and I think should be available to those in need (eg single parents, people in financial difficulties etc)

I feel it would be a positive step to include provision for 2 year olds who maybe more disadvantaged, supporting and encouraging their success throughout primary school. The whole local community would benefit from this in the long term. Also we have working families who may not be eligible for a funded place but may appreciate this provision.

Think it's a good idea to have different age groups interacting. As nursery setting is good for younger children and their development

The earlier we can take children into formal nurseries, the more impact we can have

It would offer convenience to be able to take both my children (2&4) to the nursery and offering a bigger age range could have the same benefit to siblings attending Saltaire primary school

It is a provision that is needed in the local area and would help parents of younger children to find quality childcare. Hirstwood nursery is a fantastic place and would provide a valuable addition

Hirst wood has excellent facilities to offer the local community and it would be good to maximise this. Will this affect the provision for 3-4 year olds? Will they mix or be separate? It is such a lovely school and if they have the space it would be good for more children to benefit from being here

If the school leadership believes this to be the right decision then it is
Given the impact early education has, we feel it's very important that those with the highest need for this provision here can access it asap

As the local nursery has closed it would be convenient for parents/ careers with kids aged 2 to have local nursery. It's a good proposal
I have a child who is only 11 weeks old and the nursery locally have a very long waiting list already. I send my child to a childminder and it would be great for her to come to Hirstwood at 2. Would need a bit more hands on and less like school

Lowering the age range would provide an additional option of high quality childcare for 2 year olds. HWNS is highly regarded in the local area and there is an assumption that they already provide this. Helps to ensure the long term sustainability of Nursery Schools in Bradford

Parents have been requesting that we provide a high quality provision for their children aged birth to 3 years for many years The impact of extending provision will not only improve educational outcome but will also support our financial future and sustainability

I think it would be advantageous for local families. However I do feel that the smaller ones should be segregated from the older ones who play differently so the free flow may not work so well.

I feel Hirstwood nursery school is a brilliant provision for 3&4 year olds and it would give 2 year olds good quality continues play based educational setting

Hirstwood provides excellent facilities for pre-school children and would endeavour to provider the same excellent care for younger children. They would be able to continue their education up to school. No other nurseries available within walking distance of Saltaire.

Disagree:

It is completely unfair for Nursery schools to take 2 year olds as well. It takes children away from private childcare businesses. They get the majority of 3/4 year olds already, so keep it that way. Nursery Schools approach parents when a child is turning 3 yrs, please leave 2 yrs in private C/Care

because there are enough nurseries in the local area so there isnt enough demand

Not good for small businesses. Siblings will be separated if places are only offered for over 2s and not babies

Neither agree nor disagree:

No comments

Extracted Comments from responses to consultation to lower age range at Lilycroft Nursery School

Agree:

The case is made by the Head Teacher - it's a necessity

Lilycroft Nursery school offers outstanding provision & it would be fantastically beneficial to widen the impact to include younger children. We wholeheartedly support this application to continue to share high quality early years across the district

Children accessing 2 year education will continue onto 3 year education which is better for them. They will already be familiar with not only the site but the staff too

all in one space

Disagree:

Will affect our small business heavily

Will have a major effect on my small setting. If Lilycroft do this then small settings in area will begin to suffer

It will take away from childminders

The basis of our objection is that the reach area in question is already well served by 5 providers and that there is insufficient demand to warrant extending the number of providers of the two year old offer in the reach x 2

The basis of our objection is that the reach area in question is already well served by 5 providers and that there is insufficient demand to warrant extending the number of providers of the two year offer. Data from Early Years shows take up for Spring at 65% with 138 eligible and 93 taking up in Midland Road reach area.

Neither agree nor disagree:

Feel ok about this as long as it wouldn't limit parent choice

Although I am happy for this to move forward, I think consideration to the other school nurseries should be taken when places are allocated. The earlier we can take children into formal nurseries the more impact we can have.

It depends upon the situation. For working parents it could be a good idea but otherwise it's a little early when children should be learning at home rather than attending school

Extracted Comments from responses to consultation to lower age range at Strong Close Nursery School

Agree:

The importance of early years education

Creating opportunities for children who are from disadvantaged backgrounds is crucial for them and the wider society. Outreach in the community to engage with parents to gain their confidence about sending their children

Ms Hogan makes the case clearly.

Strong Close has a good reputation and this will extend their services

Shortage of two year old places for families in the area following PSLA decision to close their nursery

To ensure that disadvantaged 2 years old in the area have access to high quality care and education.

If there is a lack of provision for 2 year olds in the area then this change will be a definite benefit to local children

As stated in the cover letter 'Access to quality early education improves children's outcomes'. Two year olds who are less likely to have experienced play and learning opportunities might fail to achieve their full potential. Providing flexible offers of care to children who may not be eligible for a funded place should also be a priority.

Strong Close nursery school provides fantastic early years education that has positive benefits for all its children, it would be extremely beneficial for this to be available for younger children. Hirst Wood Nursery School fully supports the proposal.

Supplying need for most disadvantaged to close the gap

I think Strong Close should admit 2 year olds. We have the space and also the dedicated, experienced staff who can provide a quality environment which reflects the nursery school. Two year old provision would feed into the nursery school for 3&4 year olds, thus securing sustainability for the future of Strong Close. It would also be beneficial to families who have siblings who were hoping to access 2 year old provision before PSLA nursery closed.

Disagree:

2yr olds are not use to the structure or rigor that schools seem to place around their attendance and the delivery of the EYFS to them. What is the sufficiency of 2yr places in the Keighley area?

The Pre-School Learning Alliance 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. What effect will this have on other local provisions?

plenty of nurseries and preschools in Keighley
why should they?parents should look after 2 year olds.
Impact to other providers
Detrimental effect on 3-4 year olds in the setting

Neither agree nor disagree:

None

Initial Equalities Impact Assessment

Department: School Organisation and Place Planning, Children's Services	Completed by (lead): Nina Mewse	Date of initial assessment: 25.06.18
Area to be assessed: (i.e. name of policy, function, procedure, practice or a financial decision)	Report to the Executive for Lowering the Age Range at Hirst Wood, Lilycroft Nursery and Strong Close Nursery Schools.	
Is this existing or new function/policy, procedure, practice or decision?	Decision	
What evidence has been used to inform the assessment and policy? (please list only)		
Demand from parents for 2 year old nursery places, consultation analysis.		

1. Describe the aims, objectives or purpose of the function/policy, practice, procedure or decision and who is intended to benefit.	Hirst Wood, Lilycroft and Strong Close Nursery Schools wish to lower the age range at their schools from 3-5 year olds to 2-5 year olds to meet the demand for 2 year old places following the closure of current provision, as from September 2018. This would support the children and families within their local areas 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.			
The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to have "due regard" to the need to:- (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; (2) advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and (3) foster good relations between different groups (see guidance notes)	2. What is the level of impact on each group/protected characteristics in terms of the three aims of the duty? Please indicate high (H) medium (M), low (L), no effect (N) for each.	3. Identify the risk or positive effect that could result for each of the group/protected characteristics?	4. If there is a disproportionately negative impact what mitigating factors have you considered?	
Protected characteristics	Age	L	n/a	n/a
	Disability	L	n/a	n/a
	Gender reassignment	L	n/a	n/a
	Race	L	n/a	n/a
	Religion/Belief	L	n/a	n/a
	Pregnancy and maternity	N	n/a	n/a
	Sexual Orientation	L	n/a	n/a
	Sex	L	n/a	n/a
	Any other area	n/a	n/a	n/a
5. Has there been any consultation/engagement with the appropriate protected characteristics?		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
6. What action(s) will you take to reduce any disproportionately negative impact, if any?		None required		
7. Based on the information in sections 2 to 6, should this function/policy/procedure/practice or a decision proceed to Detailed Impact Assessment? (recommended if one or more H under section 2)		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Assessor signature: Nina Mewse	Approved by:	Date approved:		