

# **Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010**

**Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by North Lanarkshire Council to relocate Clydeview School to the Cathedral Campus, taking over the existing Daisy Park Centre, under a shared headship arrangement with Firpark Primary.**

April 2021

## 1. Introduction

1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of North Lanarkshire Council's proposal to relocate Clydeview School to the Cathedral Campus, taking over the existing Daisy Park Centre under a shared headship arrangement with Firpark Primary. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision.

1.2 HM Inspectors considered:

- the likely effects of the proposal for children and young people of the school; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children and young people in the council area;
- any other likely effects of the proposal;
- how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
- the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.

1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:

- attendance at the online public meeting held on 9 March 2021 in connection with the council's proposals;
- consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
- participation in online meetings with relevant consultees from Clydeview School, and the headteachers of Firpark Primary and Cathedral Primary School.

## 2. Consultation process

2.1 North Lanarkshire Council undertook the consultation on its proposal(s) with reference to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

2.2 The council formally consulted stakeholders between 17 February 2021 and 31 March 2021. Copies of the consultation proposal were made available to statutory consultees and were publicised on the council website. An online public meeting, with 54 attendees, was held on 9 March 2021. Subsequently, the council produced a Frequently Asked Questions document and circulated it to stakeholders. Following on from the public meeting, and taking account of the expressed views of parents and staff, the council organised additional online sessions for these groups to provide further clarification and detail. Questionnaires were issued to Clydeview School stakeholders during the consultation period. Of the total 206 responses, 8.7% supported the

proposal, 81.1% were not in favour, and 10.2% were undecided. The main areas of concern raised are around design of the proposed school. For example, the size of classrooms, lack of natural light and ventilation, and lack of direct access to outdoor areas from classrooms.

2.3 The views of children at Clydeview were gathered through a group discussion held with local authority staff. Questionnaires were issued to parents to assist their child to complete at home. Of these 13 completed questionnaires, 12 children were not in favour of the proposal. Two children from Firpark Primary and 11 children from Cathedral Primary also completed a questionnaire; four were in support of the proposal, six were not and three were undecided.

2.4 In various submissions to the council and discussions with HM Inspectors, representations from the parent forums of Firpark and Cathedral Primary Schools expressed their dissatisfaction about their involvement in the consultation. They have reservations about the proposal. Firpark parents are mainly concerned about the pressure on shared facilities whilst Cathedral parents have ongoing concerns about traffic and congestion.

### 3. Educational aspects of proposal

3.1 The council considers that relocating the school would provide spaces for learning designated in such a way as to allow a range of teaching styles and approaches. The proposal has the potential to provide access to high quality facilities for children with complex additional support needs including a swimming pool that are available in Firpark's modern, purpose built campus. However, there are considerable reservations about the design and capacity of the proposed spaces for learning being able to meet the children's highly complex needs. If the proposal goes ahead, senior leaders should work together closely to ensure equitable access to facilities and resources, including staffing, across the campus.

3.2 A shared headship arrangement with Firpark has the potential to strengthen leadership and management of learning for children with additional support needs. The proposed location could provide increased opportunities for Clydeview staff to work collegiately alongside practitioners from across the campus. This could support mentoring opportunities, professional learning and strengthen practice in relation to pedagogy and meeting learners' needs across the campus.

3.3 The council should take full account of the concerns raised about the proposal by all affected stakeholders, including those at the Cathedral Campus relating to the design of the building, its campus location and traffic. The impact on Clydeview children of being part of a much larger, busier campus needs to be considered. The safety of all children is paramount and the council recognises that a transport plan and risk assessments should be undertaken taking account of increased traffic to the site.

3.4 Importantly, there should to be a greater effort to involve the children at Clydeview in discussions and decisions related to this proposal. The council should take better account of their need for intensive support and assistance to express their views.

### 4. Summary

The council has outlined potential educational benefits within the proposal. For example, the deployment of resources and enhanced opportunities for partnership working. The building condition and access to a swimming pool could enhance children's experiences. In taking forward the proposal, the council should work closely with all relevant stakeholders, including partners and representatives from all the Parent Councils involved. More detailed work by the council should address stakeholders' concerns and demonstrate clearly how the new facilities will enhance learners' experiences. The council should also work with stakeholders to undertake a more

detailed Equality Impact Assessment specific to this proposal. The council recognises that for existing Clydeview pupils, the change of location may be challenging. Should the proposal go ahead, careful, sensitive transition planning would be required.

**HM Inspectors**  
**April 2021**