

MAINTAINED NURSERY SCHOOLS WITHIN THE BOROUGH**Report of the Director of Education, Works & Skills****1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report is to provide an overview of the position of the 4 maintained Nursery Schools in Stockport. The report will provide detail of the number of children who attend these schools, the contribution these schools make to the overall sufficiency of EYFS places in Stockport, their financial position and the outcomes the schools achieve.

The 4 maintained Nursery Schools are:

Hollywood Park Nursery (which also has 20 resourced places)

Reddish Vale Nursery

Lark Hill Nursery

Freshfield Nursery

2.0 STRUCTURAL ISSUES**2.1 Sufficiency**

The table below shows that the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) has remained unchanged for these schools for the last 5 years. However, the number of children taking up places has reduced since the Summer in 2019. All 4 of these settings are equipped to work with 2 year olds. In some settings the number of children with a place as a funded 2 year old has increased. The number of children who are entitled to the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) has also largely reduced.

| | Summer 19 | Summer 22 | Summer 23 | Autumn 23 |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Freshfield: PAN= 88 | | | | |
| Funded 2 year old | 17 | 7 | 10 | 20 |
| Funded 3+4 year olds | 97 | 89 | 85 | 61 |
| Total funded places | 114 | 96 | 95 | 81 |
| EYPP | 52 | 8 | 9 | 8 |
| Hollywood Park: PAN = 120 | | | | |
| Funded 2 year old | 16 | 26 | 25 | 31 |
| Funded 3+4 year olds | 59 | 71 | 80 | 43 |
| Total funded places | 75 | 71 | 105 | 74 |
| EYPP | 8 | 20 | 25 | 11 |
| Lark Hill: PAN = 78 | | | | |
| Funded 2 year old | 20 | 15 | 13 | 11 |
| Funded 3 and 4 year old | 65 | 42 | 47 | 25 |
| Total funded | 85 | 57 | 60 | 36 |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| places | | | | |
| EYPP | 22 | 12 | 15 | 11 |
| Reddish Vale PAN=156 | | | | |
| Funded 2 year olds | 23 | 33 | 23 | 30 |
| Funded 3 and 4 year olds | 149 | 121 | 131 | 67 |
| Total funded places | 172 | 154 | 154 | 97 |
| EYPP | 35 | 29 | 16 | 6 |

2.2 Funding

The schools financial position varies considerably:

| School | Final Sch Bals 31.3.23 (£k) | Est Sch Bals 31.3.24 (£k) |
|----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Freshfield | -86 K | -24 |
| Hollywood Park | 64 | 51 |
| Larkhill | -22 | -7 |
| Reddish Vale | 30 | 10 |
| Total | -14 | 29 |

This financial year 2 schools are working with or towards a deficit budget but the financial position for all 4 schools is becoming more challenging.

Given that the number of pupils in each school is reducing, it is likely that further challenges remain.

2.3 The condition of the buildings

Recent condition surveys have shown that each school requires a considerable amount of condition work (eg: ceilings, electrical work, external work, mechanical work, roof work etc). The estimated cost of the work to ensure that all the buildings meet current requirements are as follows:

| | Condition work required |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Freshfield | £487,795 |
| Hollywood Park | £1,304,595 |
| Lark Hill | £289,139 |
| Reddish Vale | £1,577,950 |

3.0 OUTCOMES

Nursery schools are inspected every 4 years by Ofsted. This table shows the current position of the 4 schools. It should be noted that the Ofsted framework changed in September 2019.

| | Ofsted latest outcome | Date |
|----------------|------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Freshfield | good | March 2019 |
| Hollywood Park | Outstanding but will return to do a full | October2023 |

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| | inspection next time with the possibility of a judgement change | |
| Lark Hill | outstanding | December 2019 |
| Reddish Vale | outstanding | January 2020 |

It is difficult to quantify the academic outcomes for pupils beyond the Ofsted outcomes because there is no verified data that is used to assess the attainment of children until they are at the end of their Reception, a year after they have left these schools.

Our local One Voice accountability conversations are conducted annually by the School Improvement Team and identify key strengths and areas for development.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The Nursery schools currently provide at least a good standard of education according to Ofsted, although this may of course change as future inspections take place. The take up of places varies across the schools, but none are currently full, although the data from Summer 23 suggests that by the end of the year 2 schools may be at capacity. The number of children on roll has a bearing upon the financial viability of the schools and current data shows that they are all facing either a reducing surplus or are working with a deficit budget. The condition of their buildings also bring challenges and will require considerable expenditure to ensure they are fit for purpose.

4.2 It should also be noted that the changes in the funding arrangements for childcare that take effect in April 2024 may have an impact upon the choices that parents make in relation to these 4 schools. It is likely that there may be up to 3000 more children in Stockport requiring childcare for working families with 2 year olds. Some of these children may attend this provision.

4.3 Within the context of the Schools Strategy these 4 schools are considering the possibility of partnership working and this may well offer some solution, in part, to some of the issues raised.

4.4 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to comment on and note the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none.

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Tim Bowman on telephone number Tel: 07977 661073 or alternatively email tim.bowman@stockport.gov.uk