



To
Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)

Date
10th February 2016

Subject
School Crossing Patrols

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To provide the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) with an overview of the School Crossing Patrol service in Coventry, including an outline of recent service changes.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board is recommended to note the contents of this paper and make any recommendations for further consideration by the Cabinet Member for Public Services.

3 Information/Background

3.1 Legislative Framework

- 3.1.1 School Crossing Patrols (referred to in this briefing note as SCPs) were first established in the 1950's following the School Crossing Patrol Act 1953. The legislation was amended by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, which contained powers to appoint SCPs to help children cross the road on their way to and from school, or from one part of the school to another, between the hours of 8.00am and 5.30pm only. The 1984 Regulations were further amended by the Transport Act 2000 to allow SCPs to operate at any such times as the Authority thinks fit, including outside the hours of 8.00am and 5.30pm, to help anyone cross the road, whether child or adult.
- 3.1.2 SCPs can only be appointed by an "Appropriate Authority", usually the local highway authority. In essence, the law gives an SCP wearing the uniform approved by the Secretary of State and displaying a prescribed sign (hence the phrase "lollipop man/woman"), the power to require a driver to stop.
- 3.1.3 Whilst Coventry City Council, as an Appropriate Authority, has the powers to appoint SCPs, it does not have a statutory duty to do so. The provision of a School Crossing Patrol service is therefore discretionary.
- 3.1.4 Some parents mistakenly believe that the Council assumes responsibility for safety of their children on their whole journey to and from school when it provides an SCP or even

in some cases when an SCP is not provided. This is a misconception as the responsibility for ensuring the safety of children travelling to and from school is a parental one.

3.2 School Crossing Patrols in Coventry

3.2.1 Historically there has been anything up to 147 authorised SCP sites in the city at one time or another since the 1950's. The majority of these sites had been authorised using a national criteria which assessed the need for the site based on the numbers of children crossing the road and vehicles passing at that time.

3.2.2 In more recent years, up to the point where the service was reviewed in 2015, the number of established sites had reduced down to 82 with only 57 of those sites actually operating with a SCP. In addition to the 57 patrolled sites prior to the review, a further 5 Standby SCPs were employed to act as cover in the case of sickness and other short term absences. The reason for the reduction in site numbers over the years is down to several factors including; sites no longer meeting the criteria, zebra or traffic light controlled crossings having been installed and difficulties in filling vacancies.

3.3 Service Review

3.3.1 The Council is facing unprecedented financial challenges following on-going cuts to funding by central government. In 2014, as part of a response to this challenge, a service review was undertaken in order to achieve savings of £300,000 per year within the School Crossing Patrol budget. This effectively meant that in future years the service would have to be self-financing.

3.3.2 In the second half of 2014, extensive engagement with the city's primary schools began; this included meetings and presentations to the Primary Head Teachers Steering Group and individual consultation with each school to develop proposals to enable the Council to continue to provide a School Crossing Patrol service. The original plan was for individual schools to take on the responsibility for providing their own SCPs, with the Council being involved only to ensure the correct training and recruitment processes were followed as the law requires. This idea was rejected because schools had concerns about the public liability issues that such a plan would entail. An alternative proposal was then agreed whereby if schools wanted to retain the SCP(s) connected to their school then the school would buy-in the service direct from the Council. By doing so it removed the liability from the school as the service would remain with the Council.

In January 2015, the proposals were formally approved by Cabinet and Full Council through the 2015/16 Budget Report in February 2015

3.3.3 Including overheads, the cost to the Council of providing each SCP is in the region of £5,000 per year. In order to make it as easy as possible for schools to make the transition the Council agreed to subsidise the cost for the first two financial years. The subsidy meant that the cost per SCP would be capped at £2,500 in 2015/16 increasing to £4,800 in 2016/17. Participating schools would only be required to pay the full cost of providing a SCP from 2017/18 onwards.

3.3.4 During 2015, schools were given the opportunity to buy-in the service on these terms. It was made clear to them at the outset that any SCP sites that schools chose not to fund would be deleted. At the conclusion of this process, of the 82 established SCP sites throughout the city, schools initially agreed to fund a total of 41 of them and Service Level Agreements between the Council and individual schools were signed. (A school has since given notice to withdraw funding for one of their patrols bringing the current total of SCP sites to 40). In addition, the 5 Standby SCP posts were retained.

- 3.3.5 To effect this change consultation took place with employees in the School Crossing Patrol service during the second half of 2015. To avoid compulsory redundancies affected staff were offered the option of re-deployment to any of the remaining vacant SCP sites. For those sites to be deleted the staff and schools affected were given notice that the service would cease at the end of the autumn term on 18th December 2015. The Council will therefore commence changing for the service from the start of the new term in January 2016.
- 3.3.6 To help address any ongoing safety concerns a site specific risk assessment has been undertaken at all deleted sites. The outcome of the risk assessment process will be used to guide the justification for the introduction of any additional measures such as warning signs, road markings or enhanced crossing facilities.
- 3.3.7 Whilst the level of SCP sites in the new service currently stands at 40 this number is likely to fluctuate for one of two reasons. Firstly, under the terms of the SLA schools may terminate the agreement by giving the Council three months' notice. Equally schools may also opt to buy in the service from the Council should they chose to and SCPs will be recruited and deployed to new sites as quickly as possible.
- 3.3.8 Appendix A contains a list of the SCP sites that schools are funding and so will continue whilst Appendix B contains a list of the sites that schools have chosen not to fund and therefore have been deleted.

3.4 Summary

- 3.4.1 Government cuts have brought about the need to think differently about how the School Crossing Patrol service in Coventry is provided. Following the outcome of consultation with schools, the future service now involves schools buying-in the service from the Council to fund the SCP attached to their school. The costs are being subsidised for the first two years to help schools make this transition to the new arrangements.
- 3.4.2 Whilst every effort will be made to address any ongoing safety concerns at deleted sites, the responsibility for ensuring the safety of children travelling to and from school is, and must remain, a parental one.

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APPENDIX A

Location of School Crossing Patrol sites currently being funded by Schools

Site No.	School(s)	Location
6	Alderman's Green School	Alderman's Green Road o/s of school
20	Whitmore Park School	Beake Ave/Rylston Avenue
38	Stoke School	Dane Road o/s no11
41	Manor Park School	Daventry Road/Ulverscroft Road
45	Moathouse School/St Patrick's School	Deedmore Road/Wexford Road
49	Southfields School	East St o/s school
55	Coundon School	Forfield Road outside school
61	Stoke Heath School	Heath Crescent/Ox Close
66	Eastern Green School/ St Andrew's Infant School	Hockley Lane/Upper Eastern Green Ln (Site vacant from 18/12/15)
69	Coundon Court Secondary/ Hollyfast School	Hollyfast Road o/s school
73	Gosford Park School	Humber Road/Humber Avenue
84	Moseley School	Moseley Avenue outside school
86	St Laurence's School	Old Church Rd o/s school
87	Parkgate School	Parkgate Road outside school
97	Potters Green School	Ringwood Highway outside school
101	Willenhall School	St James Lane o/s school
104	John Shelton School	St Luke's Road/Hen Lane
108	Courthouse Green School	Sewell Highway/Pendenis Close
113	John Gulson School	Stoney Stanton Road/Eagle Street
114	Frederick Bird School	Swan Lane outside school
118	Richard Lee School	The Drive/St Ives Rd
124	Stoke School	Walsgrave Rd/Briton Rd
133	Henley Green School/ Wyken Croft School	Wyken Croft outside of Henley Green school
137	Joseph Cash School	Kingfield Road/Marion Road
139	Sowe Valley School	Princethorpe Way o/s school (Site vacant)
142	Sacred Heart School	Brays Lane o/s school
143	St John Fisher School	Torcross Ave/Kineton Road
154	Keresley Grange School	Bennetts Road South (Site vacant)
158	Good Shepherd School	Proffitt Avenue/Dudley Street
159	Park Hill School	Parkhill Dr/Lower Eastern Green Lane
160	Park Hill School	Lower Eastern Green Ln outside school
168	Keresley Newlands School	Bennetts Road/Howatt Road

177	Grangehurst School	Jackers Road/Anderton Road
179	Finham Park Secondary School	A45 Kenpas Highway at Bathway Rd
180	Finham Park Secondary School	Bathway Road/Kenpas Highway (A45)
181	Holbrook School	Lythalls Lane/King George's Avenue
182	Howes School	Dillotford Avenue/Palermo Avenue (Site vacant)
184	Earlsdon School/Hearsall School	Broomfield Road/Beaudesert Road
185	Manor Park School	Ulverscroft Rd o/s school (Site vacant)
197	Whitmore Park School	Halford Lane o/s school

APPENDIX B

Location of deleted School Crossing Patrol sites not funded by Schools

Site No.	School(s)	Location
9	Allesley Hall School St Christopher School St John's School	Allesley Old Road outside of school
11	Ravensdale School St John Fisher School Stoke Park School	Ansty Road/Wykeley Road
11A	Ravensdale School St John Fisher School Stoke Park School	Ansty Road/Mellowdew Road
12	Walsgrave School	Ansty Road/Woodway Lane <i>(Site previously vacant)</i>
23	Gosford Park School Sacred Heart School	Binley Road/Kingsway
29	Holbrook School	Burnaby Road/Holbrook Lane <i>(Site previously vacant)</i>
33	Hill Farm School St Augustine's School	Cheveral Avenue/Foster Road <i>(Site previously vacant)</i>
34	Stoke School Sacred Heart School	Clay Lane/Stoke Row
37	Clifton Street/Dysart Close	Clifton Street/Dysart Close
58	Finham Primary School	Green Lane/Daleway Road
60	All Soul's School Earlsdon School Hearsall School	Hearsall Avenue/Queensland Avenue
63	Henley Green School Wyken Croft School	Henley Road/Wyken Croft <i>(Site previously vacant)</i>
65	Ravensdale School Richard Lee School St Gregory's School	Hipswell Highway/The Drive
67	Holy Family School John Shelton School Parkgate School	Holbrook Lane/Parkgate Road
88	Southfields School	Paynes Lane/Britannia St
100	Hill Farm School St Augustine's School	Radford Road/Heathcote Street <i>(Site previously vacant)</i>
115	Frederick Bird School St mary and St Benedict School	Swan Lane/Harnall Lane <i>(Site previously vacant)</i>
117	Templars School	Templar Av o/s school <i>(Site previously vacant)</i>
119	Our Lady of the Assumption Sch	Tile Hill Lane outside school <i>(Site previously vacant)</i>
127	Whoberley Hall School	Wildcroft Rd o/s school <i>(Site previously vacant)</i>
129	Longford School	Windmill Rd o/s school
130	Allesley Hall School	Winsford Avenue o/s of school

Site No.	School(s)	Location
132	St Christopher School	Winsford Ave o/s school <i>(Site previously vacant)</i>
141	Radford School	Sandy Lane/Caldecote Rd
146	Templars School	Jobs Lane/Lime Tree Ave
148	St John Fisher School Wyken Croft School	Sewall Highway/Wyken Ave <i>(Site previously vacant)</i>
149	St Christopher's School	Glendower Ave/Brookside Ave <i>(Site previously vacant)</i>
151	St John Fisher School Wyken Croft School	Sewall Highway/Torcross Ave
155	Charter School	Wolfe Road/Kele Road
161	Alderman's Green School	Eburne Rd near school side entrance
166	Richard Lee School St Gregory's School Ravensdale School	Longfellow Road/Mellowdew Road
169	Manor Park School	Brightwalton Rd/Quinton Park <i>(Site previously vacant)</i>
171	Stoke School	Briton Road o/s school <i>(Site previously vacant)</i>
186	Hollyfast School Christ the King School	Scots Lane/Christchurch Road
188	Limbrick Wood School Mount Nod School Tile Hill Wood School Woodlands Academy	Jobs Lane/Fir Tree Avenue
190	Whitmore Park School	Burnaby Road/Sadler Road
191	Caludon Castle School	Belgrave Road/St Ives Road <i>(Site previously vacant)</i>
193	Grange Farm School St Thomas More School	Leamington Road/Thirsk Rd
194	Pattison College Sacred Heart School	Binley Rd/Bulls Head Lane
195	Christ the King School	Scots Lane outside school
198	Manor Park School St Thomas More School	The Chesils/Arundel Rd <i>(Site previously vacant)</i>
199	Stivichall School	Green Lane North o/s school