



Coventry City Council

**Customer and Workforce Services
Directorate**

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C/MAS
21st December 2011

Dear

Petition – Opposing the Closure of the Residential Facility at Corley School

I refer to the above petition, which you presented to the Cabinet Member (Education) on 1st December 2011 and write to inform you of the decision taken on the matter, following the Calling-in of the decision to Scrutiny, by the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee at their meeting on 20th December 2011.

At the meeting the Committee took account of the issues you raised on behalf of the Petitioners and considered the report of the Director of Children, Learning and Young People. The Cabinet Member (Education), Councillor Kelly, indicated that it was recognised that some children were advantaged in the current provision because residential provision at Corley was not available to any other children and young people attending other special schools or with similar needs across the City. Students at Corley didn't necessarily have a higher level need for residential provision than other Coventry children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and disability. Changing the designation of the school from day and residential to day secondary special school would address the issue of equity and equality of opportunity and release sufficient funding to support the implementation of the SEN and Inclusion Strategy to the benefit of children and young people with SEN and disability across the whole of the City. Councillor further indicated that the equity and fairness of the proposed re-designation of Corley Centre had been carefully examined through both a Special Education Needs Improvement Test and an Equality Impact Assessment.

The Cabinet Member confirmed that Corley would continue to run a programme of social and independence training as part of its core curriculum offer. Where the Children's Disability Team was also involved in providing activities to further develop social and independence skills, these would complement that curriculum provision. For eligible young people the Children's Disability Team offered a range of short breaks through which social and independence skills could be further developed. The Team were committed to working with parents/carers and their children to ensure that the short breaks addressed the needs of the children and families. Eligible students at Corley could access this provision.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee considered the information in the Briefing Note of the Director of Children, Learning and Young People in response to the Call-in and the information provided by the Cabinet Member (Education) and the Strategic Lead Officer (SEN, Inclusion & Participation), from the Children, Learning and Young People's Directorate, and decided to concur with the Cabinet Member decision that gave approval for the publishing of a Statutory Notice proposing that Corley Centre changes from Day/Residential Special School to Day Special School with effect from 1st September 2012.

No doubt you will inform the Petitioners of this decision accordingly. A letter detailing this decision has also been sent to the petition organisers and to _____ for information.

Should you require any further information on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Salmon
Governance Services Officer

Copies to: