

Appendix 7 – Notes Taken At The Public Meetings

Public Consultation Meeting re The Lyndale School held at Elleray Park Primary Special School

7th April 2014: 4.00pm to 6.00pm

In Attendance: Julia Hassall: Director of Children’s Services, Phil Ward: Senior Manager SEN, Councillor Tony Smith: Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services, David Armstrong: Assistant Chief Executive, Andrew Roberts: Senior Manager School Funding and Resources.

Attendees: 14

Question and Comments	Some Key Points
Why are we not having a consultation at our school Lyndale as I feel a bit exploited here at Elleray Park	The meeting was informed that the venue was agreed with the Lyndale School Parent Governors who suggested the best time for the meeting was during the day but she is happy to change the venue if needed.
If the options on the paper are not viable for our children, what then?	It was reiterated that this was a consultation and all options would be looked at and if new options are feasible then we would consider them also. We do not know what we will recommend at this time but what we do know is that it has to be right to meet the needs of the children
Why spend money on a consultation, can this not be put towards Lyndale?	It is important to note that this is not about the savings which the LA has to make. Money will continue to be invested in the children. It is very important that we hear your views.
Feedback Forms – do we need to fill in new ones as we have already done this and will we be getting an answer to our questions we have already asked	Please continue to fill in the forms, questions will be answered throughout the consultation
What is the breakdown of the £16,000	£16,000 is set at an amount to recognise the higher needs of PMLD children
Can we have a rep, someone who is a point of contact for us to speak to at the LA	Action A link person for parents will be identified.
When you published your information, it stated that there was an empty classroom at Stanley School – this has changed, there is no empty classroom at Stanley now What are you going to do if the two schools in the consultation document are full	We will not stop assessing children for a statement if they need the assessment. If there is an issue and a child cannot get access to a school, we would have to discuss this with the individual head teacher. At present we have no backlog of assessments nor do we have any issues with assessments. Extra space is being created at Elleray Park School.

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<p>What will happen if all the schools are full, Elleray Park is over subscribed now, so where will they go.</p>	<p>A key part of this consultation is to ensure that whatever the decision is that there are sufficient places. Elleray Park is a 90 place school and at present have 92. This will be increased to 110 when building work is completed.</p>
<p>Why do Elleray Park and Stanley have children with PMLD, why could they not go to Lyndale. Can you not restrict numbers of other schools to help Lyndale to grow?</p>	<p>Any of the 3 schools can take children with PMLD. Parents have a choice where they want their children educated. Parents can still choose for their children to go to Lyndale.</p>
<p>None of us here had a choice where our children went. We did not receive the admissions document when our children were stated. We want to have choice and fair access for our children. They are unique and you are putting them at a disadvantage by threatening to close Lyndale.</p>	<p>Cannot answer individual cases, assessment of the children is complex, and I cannot answer why historically some schools are oversubscribed. Each parent whether their child is in mainstream or special schools has the right to choose. If not successful then there is a process which needs to take place such as appeals, tribunals etc.</p>
<p>Why have you not promoted our school? There is still room in our school for other children. We used to have other children in our school e.g. children with ASC. Other schools have grown, why not The Lyndale?</p>	<p>We cannot predict where parents want their children to go. Also at the call in it was said that Council Officers had been directing children away from Lyndale. We can find no evidence of this happening.</p>
<p>The classes in Elleray and Stanley are based on ability. My child will never be able to read. Does this mean that there will be children aged 2-11 in the same class?</p> <p>Education for our children at times is not always the issue which is paramount, but what is, is their safety. How will you make sure they are safe?</p> <p>What about the use of the</p>	<p>The Educational Psychologists will work with the school and parents to make sure that the information on each child is up to date and represents an accurate picture of your child's needs. We acknowledge that safety is important to you all as it is for us.</p>

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pool if more children go to Elleray Park.	The head of Elleray confirmed that her pupils use both the school pool and the local swimming baths
What is the criteria/definition of PMLD	Nationally there is some confusion in the research around this but what is clear is that professionals make their decisions based on the diagnosis of each child. In all our special schools the curriculum provision to meet needs is excellent.
What if we all want our children to go to Stanley School? This would mean that there are not enough spaces?	Individual needs of the child will be taken into account. We will look at this and make sure that we offer the school that can meet your child's needs.
Our school has been under threat for over 8 years so why are you doing this now?	This is a discussion which needs to be had as there are now changes in funding. Locally we have been able to fund the empty places at Lyndale. Now we cannot continue to do this. We want a viable school, one which will last into the future. Also in larger schools it is easier to find economies of scale. Cost per child in a smaller school is higher.
Are you saying that the EFA has reduced the number of places? Are you saying that you are not allocating the top up fund of £120,000	Explained EFA funding and how banding was determined. In 2015 – 16 the EFA will move to funding high needs places on the basis of the number of pupils in schools. We will no longer be funded for empty places.
Band 5 is inadequate for all children	An additional piece of work was done to identify the highest needs and band 5 was added.
We need specialist staff for our children. We also mean no disrespect to other schools or their staff when we are asking these questions	We understand this and the staff who work with your children know the children well. Other staff will also get to know the children if they did go to another school. We appreciate that this will take time.
What will happen when our children reach 11, has a precedent been set as there are some children who attend a school in Liverpool?	As I have said each child's needs will be reviewed and no a precedent has not been set in the fact that our children attend out of borough schools. Parents can express a preference for any school in or out of the area.
When are the SEN Improvement Test people coming in and will they discuss my child	The Educational Psychologist in partnership with the school and families will be looking at each child to ensure records and assessments are fully understood. This will help plan for each child's future.
What will happen if the	As I have said at the beginning, this is a consultation and we

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Independent SEN test comes back and say that Lyndale is best	have not made any decisions as yet
What will happen if you close Lyndale, split the children between the two schools and then it does not work, will you re-open Lyndale?	Our role is to monitor and make sure we are aware of what is needed and intervene early and appropriately and not lose sight of children's needs
In relation to the Educational Psychologist, will we get to approve what has been said before you get sight of the reports and what are you going to do with the information	As I said we want to make sure that we have up-to-date information about each of your children, we want to bring it alive and make sure that whatever we do we are meeting the needs of the children. Reports are not being produced. Parents, the school and the LA will work together on this.

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Public Consultation Meeting re The Lyndale School held at Williamson Art Gallery

8th April 2014: 3pm to 5pm.

In attendance: Julia Hassall: Director of Children’s Services, Phil Ward: Senior Manager SEN, Councillor Tony Smith: Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services, David Armstrong: Assistant Chief Executive, Andrew Roberts, Senior Manager School Funding and Resources.

Attendees: 7

Questions/Comments	Key points
Has the extension to Elleray Park been approved	The scheme has been approved. This provides the funding and the design. Planning permission has not been approved just yet.
You say that there is a possibility of attaching a separate unit but we have no proof of that, and this is not a genuine consultation	We have not made any decisions. We are still consulting on Lyndale School options
Do you realise that because you have published documents which refer to Lyndale school as potentially closing, this has made our school doubly vulnerable. Pity you could not have said options for future of our school	Parents can still choose Lyndale. We as an authority have not put a bar on this. Also it is a fair point you raise but we need to have this discussion. All options will be considered and that is why these meetings are important.
If the outcome is not predetermined how come you are putting in new hoisting and access for wheelchairs at Stanley School? They have never had these before.	When we do bids for new schemes we have to make it the best we can as we want it to last for 50/60 years. There was not a hidden agenda re closure of Lyndale
Why is Stanley School taking our children	We cannot answer that, it is a matter of parental choice
I have the highest praise for Elleray School. My worry is how will a child if say they have a feeding tube, fit into a school where there are children running around. How will you keep them safe?	If that child goes to a new school, the school will have to meet their needs. Elleray school does have experience of PMLD children.
How many are disabled in Elleray? How many will be going to Elleray?	
The individual assessment of the children: are you leaving this to the school	Yes, that is their role; they need to work with professionals and parents to gain a full assessment so they can be integrated within the school in a way which is appropriate for the individual. Both Elleray and Stanley are excellent Schools
In the new school, will there be space for equipment staff etc as children with PMLD would need this	Yes

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<p>What happens when the two schools are full?</p> <p>There is also an increase in children with PMLD and each class at Lyndale is seems like a family unit.</p> <p>Also at Elleray they have a team which go around school, twice a day and change nappies, what happens if they need their nappy changed 5/6 times a day.</p> <p>We know all the children in our school and we know their families. The new schools do not know our children. The Head Teachers don't know them</p> <p>Our staff are multi-skilled, as some of our children have life limiting conditions.</p> <p>Our smallness has made us vulnerable but it is also our strength. We are concerned not just with their education but also their emotional well being.</p> <p>What we do cannot be replicated. How will you make sure there is space, people they trust, friends. You will be taking our children away from that.</p>	<p>The LA will, as it is its role, continue to monitor pupil numbers</p> <p>Need to consider the individual experience of each child, if a child needs frequent changing, that will be part of their plan to meet their needs in which ever setting.</p>
<p>Could the 3 head teachers not have communicated better over the years</p>	
<p>Could pupils not have been divided more evenly across the schools</p>	<p>Parental preference means we cannot do this. Legally we cannot direct children in this way.</p>
<p>Threat of closure has hung over us for years has not helped our school</p>	
<p>You are putting time and energy in this consultation and looking at other alternatives, can you not put this into keeping our school open</p>	<p>We are putting and have put energy into keeping this school open. This is why we are having these discussion/consultations. We cannot market the school but it is possible for the school to do that.</p>
<p>Can you explore the 2-19 option? We know parents who have said that they would have preferred for their children to stay at Lyndale</p>	<p>We did look at this in 2010 and we are genuinely listening to what you are saying and we will look at it.</p>
<p>Will it all be behind closed doors?</p>	<p>We are open to all the options. We are open minded.</p>
<p>What will you do if you have an influx into the school</p>	<p>This is something which tends not to happen. It can happen that children with complex needs unexpectedly arrive. The LA and schools need to be flexible.</p>
<p>What if you close Lyndale and all the children choose Elleray, what will you do</p>	<p>We would have to look at this as it is a statutory process, and if the school could</p>

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as they do not have the capacity	not manage all the children we would have to go back to parents/professionals and have a discussion. This could trigger appeals, tribunals etc
How will you accommodate 10 more children in wheelchairs	We would look at addressing this in the building and if not we would have to re-assess the building. Ellera Park's suitability scheme provides extra capacity. Head Teachers within the special schools are good at working with space and capacity.
How much time re the pool would children have as their pool is small? There does not appear to be much available time so how will our children fit in?	We can't answer this, it is up to the school to manage this. We are confident that this issue will be looked at and resolved by the school
Will the SEN improvement test outcomes be binding	Cabinet will make the decision
How many children are in wheelchairs at present in Ellera Park	
Band 5 is high level funding. How has it been worked out?	There is a fixed amount of money. We have tried to be equal and fair. If people think this is wrong the debate has to go back to the school forum. Any decision has to take in the whole of the school community
Our school has lost out on place funding, also lost out on top up funding	

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Public Consultation Meeting re The Lyndale School held at the Professional Excellence Centre, Acre Lane.

10th April 2014: 10am to 12pm

In Attendance: Julia Hassall: Director of Children’s Services, Phil Ward: Senior Manager SEN, Councillor Tony Smith: Lead Cabinet Member Children and Family Services, David Armstrong: Assistant Chief Executive, Andrew Roberts: Senior Manager School Funding and Resources.

Attendees: 19.

Questions/Comments	Key Points
<p>A number of inaccuracies need challenging which has been highlighting for 8 years. Lyndale school used to have a mix of children and now they only get children with PMLD. We are ‘sent’ them.</p> <p>You can look at their needs, what staff they need and some have life threatening conditions. How much does it cost for a child? The cost to school is the same no matter the setting. This has not been answered; one pot of money is not an answer. There needs to be an assessment of need re the cost of a child.</p> <p>Your consultation document talks about PMLD and CLD and they are used interchangeably. The fact is there is no definition of either of these. You cannot compare them. Children with PMLD are a smaller number than CLD. Is it reasonable to educate them in the same space? You are not prepared to change the formula. Surely if they were in other settings it would cost a lot more. For this group of children what is the optimum arrangement? This has not been done; there need to be an assessment of need, or a definition. These are real children, real needs not how much do they cost.</p>	Thank you for your comments
I want to make this point at every meeting. What happens at Elleray and Stanley when they become full? What about the future kids who may have not	

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even been born yet?	
Our school has empty space; can't you send the children there?	We cannot do this, it is parental choice
The 5 year trend is that Stanley and Elleray are near to capacity	
When those schools are full where will they go?	You are right, capacity could be a problem. A scheme has been submitted to increase the capacity at Elleray Park and we can extend Stanley School. We have built it in a horseshoe shape which would allow for this
How are you going to do it. What is the long term plan? So you are going to close a perfectly good school and extend another?	
Some of our children have pool physiotherapy 2/3 a week that is why they are living longer, so can you assure us as parents that they will be able to have this resource	The head teacher at Elleray did say at another consultation that the more able children go to the public swimming baths therefore this will allow for those with more profound needs to be prioritised in the school pool.
I appreciate that our school has had falling rolls and one of our specialisms is end of life care. We are being penalised because of this. We have lost 10 children, we lost 2 last year. Also in your wording in the consultation document you have put another nail in our coffin. Parents are not choosing us now. Also it seems if you are going to close us that other parents get to choose their school but we cannot choose Lyndale	We are still looking at every option on the consultation paper
Some of our children need 24 hour a day support and need to be resuscitated three to four times a day. How will a child at Elleray cope with this? It will be traumatic for them if they see this as they will understand what is happening. In some ways the children in Lyndale don't understand what is happening and this protects them from the trauma	This is something which has been raised at all the meetings and we will need to consider this carefully with the schools
There are 6 options but you are always talking of Stanley/ Elleray	We are responding to the questions, in the last meeting much of the time was spent discussing the 2-19 option
If you decide to save our school, will you invest in it	It has been invested in

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That was 10 years ago	Yes, it would need more work done particularly to windows.
There was fund raising for a sensory garden (£80,000). Has this been a waste of time	
How long will it take to build the extension? How much will it cost? The SEN Improvement Test has not even been looked at.	Elleray Park Scheme was not part of the proposals, this will be completed no matter the outcome of this consultation. We believe that this scheme will receive planning permission, it is not contentious
If this problem of falling numbers has been going on for 8 years have the LA not asked parents why they have not chosen Lyndale	Parents are free to choose the school which they feel is best for their child.
Staff have remained at Lyndale during the past 8 years with closure hanging over their head, would you stay put? It looks like you have already closed it. What about the staff and their expertise. You will lose this. The children in Elleray and Stanley are different from those in Lyndale. It is not fair on the children If you close Elleray the staff will be made redundant. They need to be guaranteed their job or you will lose them. The staff need to be advised about their possible future should the school close	Arrangements will be made for HR to talk with the staff.
It is the job which is made redundant not the person and if someone at the other school is taught how to do my job then I can claim unfair dismissal	These are HR technical points
What if you don't close the school, what do you do then	We will have to involve the whole school community, such as schools forum, look at the bandings and work with the EFA
If you don't close it this time, will we be in the same position next year?	We would have to have the debate with the EFA and come up with ways to do this.
In 2012/13 Band 5 pupils got £16,000 and band 3 and 4 got less per pupil. Now there is the national agreement which is £10,000 and band 3 will now get £17,000 and band 4 £18,000 but band 5 will still get £16,000 so effectively we are getting less	What we were asked to do by schools is to come up with a system which had the least change in it and this was taken to the schools forum. This is a locally agreed system. Changes were made to bands 3 and 4 to give resource bases in mainstream

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	<p>schools parity with special schools.</p> <p>The £16,000 band is not based specifically on children's needs. It is an amount that recognises the highest PMLD needs, provides the same level of funding in all schools and gives a greater degree of stability. The difficulty we have is that there is a fixed amount of money in the pot. We do not have a blank sheet to start with. This would mean re-visiting the pot and looking at how this can be shared differently</p>
If you close the school, the transition will not be seamless	We will have to carefully plan, and this means having an up to date picture of every child and their needs. This will involve not only professionals but also parents.
How can you re-assure me that which ever school my child goes to that they will have the same standard of care they have now	
<p>What constitutes a small school? At what level is it viable?</p> <p>Also in relation to the £16,000 which has just been mentioned and doing research what I have found is that it is equivalent 1 teacher per 6 children and 2 Teaching Assistants. Our children need more than that. This means that our children are underfunded. In a school in Cheshire it costs £34,000/£35,000 for PMLD children.</p> <p>Our children need it more</p>	<p>As it has been said we do not have a blank sheet, there is a specific pot of money. To change this would mean taking it away from other children</p>
No one has fully answered any question. You are just white-washing it. You have already made your decision	We are in consultation and considering all options. We will be bringing in an independent person to look at all options considered
You will keep our children in a small area, fit them into a box, they don't fit in a box so how are you going to fit them in	We have spoken to the school (Lyndale) about other options such as free school, academy status, or federating to another school. We are also re-visiting the 2-19 option as we are not trying the fit children into a box. Putting children into a confined space, locking children in a single room will not pass the SEN Improvement test, this is not acceptable. This would be a discussion with the

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	school in looking at options
Our children should not be in the same school as children with Autism	
<p>This is the most sensitive parent consultation I have heard. Regarding the minimum funding guarantee, what happened to this as this was a discussion with the EFA</p> <p>The work of this school is more intense, it is different from elsewhere and so far it appears that you are not satisfying parents with your answers. How can you replicate Lyndale, is there no other option?</p> <p>In the education budget there is a contingency fund of around £800,000 so why can this not be used</p>	<p>We made the application to the EFA but then withdrew this when additional guidance was received.</p> <p>We acknowledge that it will not be the same place but we will ensure that whatever the outcome it is as good as or better. If pupils are transferred, the new setting will have to understand each child's needs.</p> <p>It is used to fund one off events such as staffing issues, or fire etc. Should not be used for long term funding.</p>
We have invited Councillors to come and visit our school. They have not even replied which would be polite	Councillor Smith said that this was something that he was arranging and it would happen after the Easter Break
If the SEN Improvement Test says the closure of Lyndale is not good or better, what is going to happen?	Although we as officers will be making recommendations for Councillors in the report there will be commentary about the Improvement Test which local Councillors will be given.
It says in your booklet that there is 44% of PMLD but actually it is 26.1%. How have you got to these numbers if there is no definition of PMLD. Who decides	This % is based on school census information. There is very little research on this. These are local decisions, which rely on the professionals as well as the parents to make these decisions. It is based on the professional judgement.
It is based on the child not getting to P6	
Will we get a presentation from the Head Teachers of the two schools	We are in consultation and do not want to pre-empt the outcomes.

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Public Consultation Meeting re The Lyndale School held at Stanley School.

3rd June 2014: 7pm to 9pm

In Attendance: Julia Hassall, Director of Children’s Services, Phil Ward Senior Manager SEN, Councillor Tony Smith, Lead member for Children David Armstrong, Assistant Chief Executive, Andrew Roberts, Senior Manager School Funding and Resources.

In your options you spoke about a 2-19 provision, have you thought of continuing this to 25 years old?	We have not looked at this but it is relevant and we would need to have a discussion with the post 16 providers. Also we would have to find out how many 18+ young people have Education Health and Care plans. We would also have to explore the funding of this
You said you have now engaged independent person to look at the SEN Improvement Test can we meet with her. Also how long will this take and how detailed will it be	Yes we will organise this We have engaged the person for 15 days and she will not be participating in the assessments.
I had to take my children out of Wirral to Liverpool as there is no provision for them.	
If you put my child into Stanley School how can you ensure that they will be safe as this school is more for children with autism and not PMLD.	We would not transfer any child into a school where it is not safe for them. We will be ensuring that the provision for each child is either as good as or better. If we don’t do this we will not pass the SEN Improvement Test.
My son’s condition can change and can take me by surprise, how will the Educational Psychologist take this into account	They will work with the school and parents and the child to make sure we have the most up to date assessment.
If you take in the children from Lyndale how will this effect my child here at Stanley School	We believe that this school will be able to support the children who chose to transfer as this school has good management, staff and a balanced curriculum.
	Stanley School has been built to accommodate children with physical disabilities as well as children with autism
What will happen if the judgement for my child is wrong, who is liable for that	The liability lies with the Local Authority but as officers we continually have to make judgements about provision.
Will we as parents have an opportunity to	Yes and we hope that you do this

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<p>make a decision about either school and what would suit our child best?</p>	
<p>What will happen if we all want the same school as our children will want to stay with their peers, for example, can Ellera Park accommodate all the children? Will the schools be over-subscribed if all are squeezed in?</p>	<p>Our obligation is to provide places and we would then have to have the conversation with Ellera about this</p>
<p>We want to keep the ethos of Lyndale School. We want to move together as one.</p>	<p>We have done a desktop paper exercise to look at this issue and we can extend Stanley School or even modify the design at Ellera but at this point it is only a paper exercise and more detail would be needed before we could progress.</p>
<p>How big will the extension be at Stanley if you decide on it Will it take away the library and garden at Stanley</p>	<p>Stanley is built in a horseshoe shape and has been built with generous space. Having done the bid we can reconfigure and keep external spaces</p>
<p>We would need at least 2 classrooms but what guarantee would we have that they are not just stuck in the classroom all day. At present they all have assembly together, they can move around freely is this going to be replicated</p>	<p>Head Teacher of Stanley School – We would organise the children according to their needs. They will be part of assembly as well as having circle time</p>
<p>Are we guaranteed a choice for our children which school they will go to?</p>	<p>All parents would have a choice of which school they want their their child to attend.</p>
<p>Our children are different ages not just an extension of one age, how would you work this?</p>	<p>Head Teachers are experts in accommodating children’s needs and they will manage this within their school.</p>
<p>How many CLD are there in the schools and how many have ASC</p>	<p>I don’t have the figures to hand, but would always consider the needs of each child.</p>
<p>I know of one family with a child with PMLD that were not offered Lyndale as a school. Is this because you have already planned to close our school. Also I know of another parent from Ellera who asked for Lyndale to be told no. This means our school is losing children because of this business.</p>	<p>I cannot discuss individual cases but I am happy if the parents involved would like to contact me and I will have a discussion with them. Also, all parents have the right to appeal and we have no say in the appeal as the decisions are made by an independent panel.</p>
<p>This consultation is having an impact as</p>	<p>1 new child is coming into Lyndale in</p>

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<p>parents are not being offered Lyndale, Lyndale is being ignored</p>	<p>September 2014. Lyndale is still in the admissions booklet.</p>
<p>You say that this decision to close is not about funding but my child will cost the same no matter which school she is in so how will you meet her needs.</p> <p>If it is not about money what are the benefits then?</p>	<p>It is about money but what we have said is that it is not about saving money for the Council as this money is ring fenced to schools. What we have also said is it is about funding and how there is going to be a change in how we can allocate the funding. We have been funding the empty places in Lyndale for years and we have been told that this is going to change to only places being funded so this is why we are having this debate.</p> <p>Your child's needs must be met no matter which school she attends but it is more expensive to run a small school compared with a larger school and Lyndale is a small school.</p> <p>Also no matter where your daughter goes, there will be the appropriate nursing care for her. We want the best for all children and we are committed to ensure that each child has an up to date needs assessment and are working with health and school staff to do this.</p>
<p>If Lyndale closes who makes the decision re the staff of Lyndale?</p> <p>As staff we are anxious as suddenly we will be expected to be specialised in other areas e.g. at Stanley they specialise in autism where I specialise in PMLD. Would I have to do it all as this scares me?</p>	<p>We will be talking to the schools to ensure that each child is supported and where possible staff will move with the children</p>
<p>If you mix up the children by age like in Ellera and Stanley how will this affect the others when my son needs to be resuscitated?</p> <p>If you close Lyndale then have an influx of children with ASC will you open a school like Lyndale again</p>	<p>Across the country there are very successful special schools who manage a mix of children's disabilities on a daily basis and this would be managed</p> <p>Head Teachers are managing issues such as these all the time.</p>
<p>Do parents have the right to an out of borough placement if neither of the</p>	<p>Parents have a right to express a preference for any school</p>

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options are suitable	
We invited elected Members to our school and only a small handful have actually attended so how can they make a decision	We have organised a coach so that more councillors can be supported to attend
Will any Stanley School children have to move out when the Lyndale move in? Our school will change and I made the decision on this school based on how it was? How will I stand, what can I do What would our options be if there is a dynamic change to our School (Stanley)?	No. Other areas manage a different mix very successfully in their schools and we can do this in Wirral
The consultation document is poor. It does not say anything about the children. It does not give a definition of PMLD, their health needs etc Are you using the model of co-production for this consultation? You have no understanding of our children on a day to day basis	Part of our consultation process is getting a better understanding of the needs of the children and families. For example we have heard about children's needs so that we can plan for their future provision. We have committed to 6 consultation events. We have also met with the parent governors and the MP Alison McGovern to talk about the options and we will discuss whether there is any scope for co-production looking at a joint solution.
You keep changing the goal posts We have to fight for everything, now you are shutting our school. This is where I thought my child would be safe, it is our school our respite	We will listen to your views.
Is there going to be a proper calculation to educate my child on a PMLD basis?	We will look into it. The banding system was produced by the schools forum. We can re-open the debate with the schools forum, it is not fixed in stone.

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Public Consultation Meeting re The Lyndale School held at the Floral Pavilion.
9th June 2014: 4.00pm to 6pm

In Attendance: Julia Hassall: Director of Children’s Services, Phil Ward Senior Manager SEN, Councillor Tony Smith, Lead member for Children and Family Services, David Armstrong: Assistant Chief Executive, Andrew Roberts, Senior Manager School Funding and Resources.

Attendees: 17

<p>In your consultation document Page 15 in the Section which asks the question relating to School Organisation it asks about the implications for staff and whether there are opportunities for redeployment. Your answer is that staff will be eligible but there is no redeployment policy and the new school does not need to employ the staff from Lyndale?</p> <p>Can’t a policy be made as there are special circumstances as our children are known by the staff at Lyndale?</p> <p>What about TUPE</p>	<p>We always assumed that there would be a degree of movement of staff from Lyndale to the other schools.</p> <p>There will be additional staff needed for the other schools if children are transferred</p> <p>There used to be a redeployment policy but with the status of schools changing and some have become Academies etc staffing is the responsibility of the governors. The staff at Lyndale is the responsibility of the Local Authority. In the primary rationalisation the vast majority found new posts. We, as a local authority, cannot force schools to take on staff as we do not have the power, we can only work with schools</p> <p>We will have to take this issue up with our HR department</p>
<p>Are the parents glad that you have assumed?</p> <p>Also by putting this in the document you have misled the public. Parents may well have felt reassured when they read this</p>	<p>This will be recorded in our final document</p>
<p>Do schools get extra funding if they take these children on their role?</p>	<p>Yes they get the resource which comes with the pupil</p>
<p>I want to say that Lyndale school provides excellent care. Care is paramount in the school not just apparent</p>	
<p>Will you be reporting to Cabinet what we have said in these meetings? We met with the Director for the consultation document and our points were not taken</p>	<p>Yes we will</p>

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into account? You could be misleading them	
Who makes the decision on what banding a child gets especially when there is not definition of PMLD.	There is a set criteria for Band 4 and Band 5. This was the work done by Eric Craven. For a child to receive band 5 they have to meet 3 criteria which is around mobility, feeding and P Scales.
In relation to the SEN Improvement test and the issues raised in the document for Cabinet will we get to see them first?	This will be a separate report for Cabinet. The independent person will meet with Head Teachers and Parents
Can we dispute anything on the document	Member of the school can request to speak to Cabinet. Also the Councillors will be visiting the schools so you can speak to them.
I am more heartened that after the meeting at Stanley School you are considering building an extension to it for our children. Would this mean we could move enmasse	We are willing to look at this option. We would also need to have a discussion with the Governors of the school and I also have to add a caveat that as a Local Authority we work with individual families
If you build can I just say we do need a sensory garden.	
In relation to numbers going into schools why can you not just cap the other schools	Legally we cannot do this as parents have a choice
Will all these changes affect how my daughter is cared for	No children will be supported as they are now
If you do not build will you have the capacity at the schools	Yes and the reason for this is that when we do a new build we are building for the next 50 years. We have also learned from what we did in the primary sector and we have made sure that there is enough provision
Are these schools been built only for children who are mobile	
Would it not be better that there is a little unit which retains the Lyndale ethos and name rather than try to integrate them into one of the schools	This is something we will be looking into
If you integrate us with another school we will lose our staff and the staff from Lyndale know our children	
How will you make sure that our children are safe	I have spoken to the Head Teachers and both are 100% confident that they can keep your children safe. If they were not safe then we would not meet the SEN

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	Improvement Test
If you are going to put the children into Elleray Park, will it not effect your budget	It does not affect the Local Authority's budget but the budget it will affect is the Schools Budget and Dedicated Schools Grant. It would mean that it was only paying for one Head Teacher etc rather than 2 of everything
If the money is given to Elleray park does that mean they could spend the £16,000 my child is entitled to on other children	The other schools must meet the needs of your children
At Lyndale there is an open door policy for parents, will this be the same in the other school.	All our special schools are open and welcoming
When my child started at Lyndale and when he moves from stage to stage, I have sat down with the new teacher and carers to ensure they understood his needs, will this continue in the new school?	Yes, most definitely
Will my child still be able to get a place at a summer play scheme	Yes
Are staff at the other schools aware of the level of care needed for our children?	Yes and if staff don't have the skills they will be re-skilled. Training will be provided.
There is excellent care at Lyndale, the staff go beyond their 'pay packet'	
My observation is that the decision to close Lyndale has already been made	We as officers do not make the decision to close Lyndale and no decision has been made as yet. We are still exploring the options. We gather the information and then we make a recommendation to Cabinet
Foxfield – What about the option of Foxfield School	All options will be looked at
Is there a set time for all this?	
How would the building stuff work, would our children be moved when this is all going on?	No they would not move until it is ready
Does this mean that our jobs/timeline is not final	July 2015 is the earliest The Lyndale could close
What if the staff at Lyndale get new jobs, what will happen to our children	This is something that all schools have to deal with and manage appropriately
Would it not be cheaper to move them than make them redundant?	

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Public Consultation Meeting re The Lyndale School held at Acre Lane

16th June 2014: 5.30pm to 7.30pm

In Attendance: Julia Hassall: Director of Children’s Services, Phil Ward Senior Manager SEN, Councillor Tony Smith: Lead Member for Children and Family Services, David Armstrong: Assistant Chief Executive, Andrew Roberts: Senior Manager School Funding and Resources.

Attendees 34.

Questions/Comments	Key points
Can we have a copy of the notes which you have been taking throughout the 6 consultation meetings	These are high level summary notes and not minutes and we will be using them to inform Cabinet. They are to capture your views
Could you then have key bullet points, or pick up the themes and can we see them.	They will be made public when our report goes to Cabinet
I have been to 100 companies so far and have asked them what they think of the closure of Lyndale and they are 100% against it. You are public servants and you should be serving the needs of people not yourself	Thank you for your comments
The consultation document is not worth the paper it is written on	
When the children’s assessments are done will they be used to cost need. Will you look at the banding	The assessment is about capturing the most up to date information of a child. This will be done on an individual basis The banding system is new and it was agreed by the Schools Forum. There will be review after the first year. DA/AR will feed this information you are raising back to the Forum
Will the petition from 5 years ago also be presented to Cabinet? All 3 parties fully supported it and decided not to close Lyndale	No. This is a new consultation.
Lyndale school is a fabulous resource inside the school as well as outside. We are able to take our children out so that they can enjoy the trees, the garden etc. The idea of squashing us into another	

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school is not conducive to provide a high level of care and education	
Is it 5 or 10 places in Stanley School, it is just a play on words	The new building was built to accommodate a higher number of pupils. The number of extra places will depend on the needs of the children
Are there any PMLD children at Stanley School at the present time?	No, but there are some children with PMLD at Elleray Park
I have visited Stanley School and I would be petrified to leave my child there. I think it would be a massive risk as I don't think my child will be safe	Both Head Teachers are confident that they can safely integrate your children into their school. Across the country there are many schools who do this successfully
Has anyone spoken to Paediatricians or Specialist Health Visitors about this consultation	No
What is going to happen if there are growing numbers with children with CLD if you transfer our children into Elleray and Stanley	This is something which we have to manage all the time. We need to keep up with the changes in SEN.
In your special arrangements to provide an up to date assessment of each child you need to take into account that some of the children don't have language etc and the environment is as important as well as relationships, friends, as well as a sense of place. They need a safe environment and this could be difficult if you mix them with children who have ASC	We have asked our Principal Educational Psychologist to ensure that we have an up to date picture of each child and their needs. She understands each child and if we know the needs of each child, this will help to drive our future provision
What about Foxfield School. That was a great provision why have you not put this forward as an option	This is a secondary school; children come into this school at aged 11. One of the options mentioned in the consultation document is a 2 to 19 provision. We are looking at Foxfield School as an option as parents have asked us to. Also it is important to remember that if we close Lyndale we will have a discussion about each child and parents can state their preference for any school
How come at Stanley only 90% is funded, will this mean that the other 10% will not be funded and have to be found out of their resources	Annually there is a census for each school. Numbers are reviewed and amended taking this into account.

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<p>We gained public support when we fund raised £80,000 for the sensory garden, if you close what will happen to it and how will you give the money back to the general public? This was their hard work and you are going to knock down Lyndale!</p> <p>There is an amphitheatre; do you know who built it? It was the YTS lads from Wirral Action</p>	<p>In other schools we have always made sure that if we were about to close and transfer the children, we relocate any other equipment where possible. We will look to relocate the sensory garden</p> <p>No</p>
<p>4 years ago officers put forward a proposal to close Kingsway School because it was not financially viable and this was voted against and this school is still here. So what is to say 4 years on Lyndale will not be the same and continuing to deliver high quality care and education.</p>	<p>Kingsway remains a small school which limits its budget income and there is an outstanding Council resolution to carry out a review.</p>
<p>Elleray and Stanley school do not always provide 1 to 1 support or even 2 – 1 support for their children so if you relocate Lyndale will that not effect their financial viability</p>	<p>The Head Teachers of both schools are confident that they will be able to manage integration of the children from Lyndale.</p>
<p>5 years ago at a full council meeting all 3 parties agreed to keep Lyndale open. Therefore the message is keep it open</p>	<p>The difficulty as mentioned is that there is a change to the funding formula and we have been funding empty spaces in this school. You have been really clear during these consultations that what you want is wherever your children go to school that it needs to replicate the provision at Lyndale</p>
<p>I have an issue in relation to the banding of our children. I accept that they all have different needs but my worry is that my child who is on band 4 is getting £8,000 less than others on a band 5 but what will happen at Stanley School?.</p> <p>We do not think that this will work as my son needs 1 to 1 care as although my son can feed himself he also needs to be fed as well.</p>	<p>The banding is a new system and only came into being on 1st April 2014. The question about whether your child is on the right band needs to be fed in to their annual review. You can also take this up with the Principal Educational Psychologist.</p>
<p>If the banding was changed would that keep the school open?</p>	
<p>In relation to the National Funding, Local Authorities have the ability to say what system they are going to use and Wirral chose to do a banding system which has</p>	

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<p>no flexibility. The difficulty is that by the time you go to the Schools Forum to change this system, Lyndale will be closed</p>	
<p>I approached the DFE about Lyndale becoming an Academy and was told that Wirral Council had one proposal which was to put children with SEN in Wallasey School</p>	<p>This is not something we have done. This may have something to do with the Everton Free School which may be moving on soon</p>
<p>The decision to not close Lyndale 5 years ago was unanimous. Also there was an agreement made that the LA investigate a policy for PMLD. The first part was to speak to parents; the second part was never done. What needs to be worked out is the needs of children and also if there is going to be cross subsidy in Stanley, parents have the right to know. The issue is simple – it costs money to educate children with PMLD.</p>	<p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Why are parents sitting at the back and not sitting at the front with you officers?</p>	
<p>This is about individual pupils and they need 1-1 care and they have different needs from the children at Stanley School and how can you mix them?</p>	<p>We are looking at how we would recreate the Lyndale ethos in another setting. We are looking at all 8 options</p>
<p>All our children have PMLD and Lyndale is a homely school. The setting is perfect for them. This should be a priority on everyone's agenda.</p>	<p>Thank you.</p>
<p>I understand that there can be data protection issues but what we would like to see is a list of the views of parents about the potential schools. Also the SEN Improvement Test appears to be a moveable feast. If you are going to recreate the Lyndale ethos it needs to be a replica of what the children have now not something else. For example there are differences in the schools now, the noise levels, how they look.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p>
<p>The provision at Stanley and Elleray is not there at present so how can you base it on “we could do etc” Also how is there space at Stanley, their outdoor areas are not in abundance now</p>	<p>Head Teachers are very confident that they can accommodate the children from Lyndale and they have to manage and balance new intakes of children all the time</p>

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When will we have a decision as surely the staff need to know what it happening as well as new staff would need run in time to get to know my child	We are planning to take the report to cabinet before Christmas 2014. If the option is to extend Stanley there will be a need for a longer lead in time re the building work. We will also want to work with the parents.
Our children could be creating bad feeling at the other schools as they will be taking away time which has been spent on other children such as the hydrotherapy pool time	
Why are you doing this even a teacher who works at Stanley told you it could not work	Across the country there are many schools that work with a mixture of needs of children and do this very successfully.
My fear is that my child is stuck in a small space	
You mentioned extra capacity but is this for children who are mobile as you need more room for children who are wheelchair users	Yes we understand this and that is why I was saying 5/10 as it will depend on need
You said that you would be meeting on Friday with Alison McGovern about buildings, how will you let us know if something significant comes out of this	This is part of the whole consultation process and the parent governors of Lyndale are also involved in this and can feed back. We will also include any significant issues in our report to cabinet
We handed you a 7 pages of questions and we want to know when we will get the answers to them	I am going through these at the present time and will get them back to you next week.
I asked the Head Teacher at Foxfield whether they could extend their school and now listening to this I think there is a genesis of an idea re Lyndale replication emerging as an option. Is this not something which needs more consultation? Also should the information not be collected and presented to the parents to see whether they are satisfied and it meets their needs. It would mean delaying but is it not worth exploring	Members will give us direction when we present our report.
Why can't you use this capital investment for The Lyndale?	We cannot use capital money for revenue
I have major concerns about my child going to another school. Hypothetically what will you do if something happens to a child and as we are telling you it is not safe to integrate them?	
We need more than 3 classrooms as we will need hydrotherapy pool, changing facilities etc	We are taking the option of the Lyndale ethos seriously but we will have to work out the detail of this

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Your dates have not changed even although you say you are looking at all the options	We have done a 12 week consultation process and this is flushing out your views
I want to highlight that you said in your consultation document in the FAQ that the teachers and staff can be redeployed. This is incorrect as there is no redeployment policy in the Local Authority	
I take exception to how you are talking to parents, you are offensive and dismissive	
Why are the head teachers from the other schools not here as they could be answering these questions	Head Teachers have been in attendance at the meeting held at their school
Any decision you make should not contravene the Human Rights Act and you are taking away our choice so how do you square our legal right	We will have to demonstrate that whatever facilities we provide are as good if not better
Why is an officer chairing this and not the lead member	
Will you be looking at the funding formula to ensure there is the correct funding for each child	
Although we have falling numbers, because of all the publicity we have parents wanting to bring their child to Lyndale	
The SEN Improvement Test how does it work? Do they speak to all the schools?	Both schools have made a commitment and they will have an independent plan for each child
When do they do this in writing and at what stage? (SEN Test?)	It will have to be before the Cabinet meeting
You have had 6 meetings and they have been at inappropriate times and we don't know what has been said. Why have we not seen the notes? Why could we not have had the notes which tell us e.g. meeting 1 here are the key issues. These notes should be minutes of meetings	The notes will be reflected in the report. The number of meetings, different venues and different times provided better opportunity for people to come.
Why can't we see the final report	You will be able to see it, it will be posted on the council website 7 days before the meeting. I have had a brief conversation with the parent governors and we will be presenting the report in September 2014 as we don't want to rush it.
The same points are being made 6 or 7	I have given the same intro at each

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times but I have a strong suspicion that the decision has already been made and all you are really doing is trying to make me feel I have been consulted with but really we have not been.	meeting, we have varied the times and the venues to attract a wide audience
Can we have a paper copy of this document	It will be available
Don't shut Lyndale	

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