

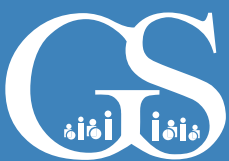
# Consultation Document

**Consultation on the proposed transfer of Glenwood Community Special School to the site of the Deanes School, Daws Heath Road, Thundersley, Benfleet, Essex SS7 2TD**

Meetings for parents and the community - 18 March 2010, 1pm and 7.30pm  
at Glenwood School

**March 2010**





Glenwood School

Together we will;  
respect, achieve and make good choices

## Introduction

Essex intends its Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme to make a major contribution to removing barriers to inclusion. We will identify and remove these barriers by planning improvements in provision, policy and practice, enabling full access to the curriculum and targeting resources to ensure early identification and rapid response to SEN/LDD, poor attendance and behaviour and the closing of the attainment gap between learners.

Collaboration between mainstream secondary and special schools, including enhanced provisions, will promote inclusion ranging from virtual to open liaison between learners utilising school environments. Within wave 5 of the BSF programme we intend to co-locate Glenwood Special School with the Deanes School.

Please take a moment to read this leaflet and make your views known by submitting the response form and/or attending the meetings for parents and the local community which will be held at 1pm and 7.30pm on Thursday 18 March at Glenwood School, Thundersley.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Martin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Councillor Peter Martin**  
**Leader of the Council**

## **Dear Staff, Parents/Carers and Members of the Local Community**

This consultation document contains important information about proposals by Essex County Council (ECC) to:

- Transfer Glenwood Community Special School from its current location in Rushbottom Lane, Thundersley, Benfleet, Essex SS7 4LW to the site of the Deanes School in Daws Heath Road, Thundersley, Benfleet, Essex SS7 2TD with effect from 1 September 2013, in new purpose built accommodation;
- Increase the number of places available for learners between the ages of 3-19 from the current 100 to 150 places. This increase will take place by September 2013 and Glenwood would transfer to the Deanes site with places for 150 learners.

It is important to hear the views of the local community during this consultation period. Please read this document and let us have your comments in writing by 1 April 2010. You may complete the form attached, write separately to the address provided on the form, or email to [admin.strategy@essex.gov.uk](mailto:admin.strategy@essex.gov.uk)

## Background

Glenwood is a community special school which at present has spaces for 100 learners aged 3 to 19 years. The school caters for learners with a complex range of learning difficulties and/or disabilities, all of whom have statements of special educational needs. Over two-thirds have severe learning difficulties and the remainder have profound, multiple learning difficulties. Significant numbers, up to one third, have physical needs and over a third have a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder.

Ofsted inspected the school in February 2009 and found that it was a good school, with some outstanding aspects. The outstanding features were the quality of care, guidance and support provided for the learners and consequently their personal development and well being. Ofsted found that there were excellent working relationships with external agencies and specialist support, including therapists, which had a strong impact on the learners' welfare and the progress they make. The school also works very closely with parents and carers who are wholly supportive of its work.

The majority of learners at the school live in the Castle Point and Rochford area, however some travel from neighbouring areas. Over recent years the age of learners on entry has changed with more learners transferring to Glenwood School following a period of inclusion within a mainstream setting. Some learners transfer at the age of 16 from other special school settings.

Although the school is performing very well its present buildings are less than ideal. Whilst the buildings are well maintained more than 50% of the teaching areas are in relocatable buildings with a lack of specialist areas and no space for increasing partnership working including work with parents/carers. Some of the accommodation is not fully accessible, restricts innovation, and impacts on the standard of care provided. Most learners travel to school by County Council organised transport and the restricted space and access on the site impacts upon the management and operation of this process and increases some of the potential risks.

The County Council therefore believes that moving the school to the Deanes School site in new purpose built accommodation would help to improve the already high standard of education that the school provides and help learners to make even more progress than they do already.

Children at the school will transfer to the new site and transport arrangements will remain in accordance with the County Council's published policies.

## The Relocation Proposal

The Deanes School is one of the mainstream schools in Wave 5 of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. Glenwood School is also in Wave 5. As part of the BSF process of transforming education in the area, this offers an exciting and visionary opportunity to co-locate both schools in the same building. The schools would continue to operate as separate schools each under their own Head Teacher and Governing Body, but learners of both schools would be able to access facilities that would not normally be readily available to them,

community cohesion would be improved and economies of scale could be utilised to provide additional facilities.

The enhanced facilities will also be more attractive and useable by members of the public outside normal school hours. The proposals ensure there is no significant incursion into the green spaces of the school, protecting the Green Belt designation of the site and the visual amenity for local residents. Steps will be taken to protect the varied ecology of the site. The Glenwood learners will move into their part of the new building upon completion, ensuring there is no disruption to these vulnerable learners.

## **The Vision**

A public consultation exhibition was held at the Deanes School on 15 December 2009 which set out the joint vision held by Glenwood School and the Deanes School about their learning community.

Deanes and Glenwood share the vision of a community where individual learners, families and the community share the highest expectations and aspirations for all. Our Strategy for Change is a part of a developing process which will shape the future of both schools.

Our aspirations for our dynamic learning community have evolved from rethinking the concept of a school. We began with a model of co-location but have progressed to a model of learning that amalgamates resources, expertise and extended services to create a facility which is unique in its ability to respond in an ever changing global society. We will unite the whole community and work collaboratively with schools, colleges and multi agencies to establish a full spectrum of support.

Our learning community is highly ambitious. We will deliver high standards of achievement through personalisation and life-long learning in a building that offers state of the art resources across the whole curriculum. We seek to build on our success by sharing expertise and resources for the benefit of our learners, staff and the wider community. As a forward-thinking and vibrant centre we aim to build an excellent national reputation through a fusion of the physical design of the building, personalised learning and integrated technology.

Governors will champion the following guiding principles of:

- stimulating creative thinking in a learning environment that promotes high quality personal and professional development; influencing school and national practice;
- providing a unique environment that offers the widest range of personalised, challenging learning opportunities;
- commitment to providing the wider community with access to a hub of services, experiences and opportunities.

As guardians of resources that should be “owned” by the whole community, we will ensure that we are responsive and supportive.

The learning community model will enable key elements and priorities of our vision to be translated into practice. The potential for sharing facilities between the two schools and their use by the community will be another positive development. Most significantly, it will provide experiences for learners to grow and learn together. It will encourage us to deliver learning in new ways through utilising the wider experiences and skills of staff.

The design will increase the opportunities for learners to use community facilities on site. A wider range of specialist facilities will enable us to assess and identify our learners' interests and talents. This information can then be used to personalise learning. We will be able to widen our work with parents, carers, and others who support the lives of families and learners. ICT will be an integral part of designing our holistic learning environment enhancing and developing our vision.

Our learning community will be the vehicle for the achievement of the above through a coherent and unified approach to moving the transformation agenda forward.

## **Why are we consulting with the community?**

As noted above there has already been a consultation about the idea of moving Glenwood to the Deanes site, which was well attended by parents and members of the local community. Why then are we asking for your views again? Legislation from the Department for Children, Schools and Families requires that when a school is "relocating" more than two miles (as the crow flies) then a statutory notice must be published and a formal decision taken to make the move. The distance from Glenwood to Deanes is just in excess of 2.2 miles. Before the notice is published the legislation requires that a consultation takes place to find out the views of the community and everyone affected by the proposed change, which is why we are asking specifically for your views on the relocation. Your views will be taken into account by the County Council when it decides on the proposal.

## **How can you make your views known?**

Meetings have been arranged to provide an opportunity for parents/carers, staff and members of the local community to ask questions and express their views on the proposal outlined in this leaflet. At this stage no decision has been made and all the views received, either at the meetings or separately in writing, will be considered prior to a decision being taken as to whether to go ahead with the proposal.

**Parents/carers and members of the local community are invited to attend meetings on 18 March 2010 at Glenwood School, either at 1pm or 7.30 pm.**

We hope that these two meetings will give as many people as possible the opportunity to give us their views. In addition to the meetings for parents and the local community the County Council will also be seeking the views of other interested parties.

## **Your Comments**

This consultation period will end on Thursday 1 April 2010. If you would like to comment on the proposal you may use the form attached or write separately to the address provided on the form, or email to [admin.strategy@essex.gov.uk](mailto:admin.strategy@essex.gov.uk).

All written comments should be received by the County Council by Thursday 1 April 2010. Essex County Council handles information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998 and is the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998. Your answers to this consultation will only be used to assess the community's view of the proposed amalgamation and not for any other purpose. We will not give information about you to anyone outside Essex County Council.

The information contained in this leaflet can be made available in alternative formats: large print, Braille, audio tape or disk. Please call 01245 436726.

If you have any questions about the consultation process or the proposal you can call Kevin Wilby, School Organisation Project Manager, on 01245 437168, or alternatively contact the Chair of Governors, via the school office.

## **What happens next?**

At the end of this consultation period the Leader of the Council will consider the feedback and views expressed by all interested parties during the consultation and decide whether to go ahead with the proposal. If this is the case a Statutory Notice will be published in the local press and will be displayed at the main entrance to the school and at some other conspicuous places in the area served by the school for a 6 week period. This 6 week representation period provides the final opportunity for people and organisations to comment on, or submit objections to, the proposal.

At the end of the 6 week period any comments on or objections to the proposal will be considered by the County Council and a final decision will be made on the proposal.

## Response Form

### RE: Proposed Relocation of Glenwood School

Please indicate below with a ✓ whether or not you support the proposal

I/we <b>support</b> the proposals to transfer Glenwood School to the site of The Deanes School, in Daws Heath Road, Thundersley, Benfleet, Essex SS7 2TD from September 2013 and to increase the number of places from 100 to 150.	
I/we <b>do not</b> support the proposals to transfer Glenwood School to the site of The Deanes School, in Daws Heath Road, Thundersley, Benfleet, Essex SS7 2TD from September 2013 and to increase the number of places from 100 to 150.	

**Please provide below any supporting information for your preference above and/or any other comments that you might wish to make.**



**Name:**

**Address:**

**Interest group: (e.g. parent, staff member, local community member etc.)**

Please return this form by 1 April 2010 using the FREEPOST address below or hand in to your child's school, whose staff will pass it on to the County Council.

**Glenwood Consultation**

School Organisation and Planning

FREEPOST CL 3636

County Hall

Chelmsford

CM1 1XZ

Alternatively, email [admin.strategy@essex.gov.uk](mailto:admin.strategy@essex.gov.uk) to make your views known.

Thank you for your response.

**This document is issued by**

Essex County Council Schools, Children and Families.

You can contact us in the following ways:

**By post:**

Essex County Council, School Organisation and Planning

Schools, Children and Families Directorate

PO Box 4261

County Hall

Chelmsford, CM1 1GS

**By telephone:**

01245 436 726

**By email:**

[admin.strategy@essex.gov.uk](mailto:admin.strategy@essex.gov.uk)

The information contained in this leaflet can be translated,  
and/or made available in alternative formats, on request.

Published February 2010.

DS09\_2173