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To all Consultees

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My ref: JH/PD/db
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Dear Consultee

Primary Support Bases

As part of its work to support schools in promoting good behaviour and high achievement the County Council is moving to a network of support bases within primary schools. The purpose of this letter is to consult you about a proposal to:

open a new primary support base for six pupils at Radburn Primary School in Letchworth with effect from 1 April 2005.

We are moving towards a more inclusive model of support for children within their local schools. Schools will receive help for identified pupils with behaviour issues which may affect their (and other pupils') ability to access the curriculum and their achievement potential. The support will be available from a variety of services including local Education Support Centres and Behaviour Support Teams.

In addition a new network of primary support bases at certain schools across the County would offer:

- a direct service of teaching and classroom support for a clearly identified group of 6 children at any one time in their local schools. The children supported would be on the roll of both his/her local school and the base school;
- full time attendance at the primary support base for a period of intensive support or assessment for up to 6 pupils for whom continuation at their local school is not appropriate.

An independent pilot of three bases offering this type of support has shown them to be highly effective. Those bases are now in their third year of successful operation and will be involved in supporting the new bases.

This model offers a number of advantages including:

For Radburn Primary School

- becoming a centre of excellence within the area
- enhanced levels of specialist support with the school benefiting every pupil, not just those within the base
- good inclusive practice which is an increasing focus for Ofsted

For all schools and pupils in the area

- opportunities for early intervention
- the ability to respond quickly to pupil needs
- more sustainable base provision
- greater flexibility for individual children including part time placements and 'hands-on' assessments
- increased likelihood of reintegration or carefully planned transition to and from special schools
- closer working relationships with special schools and other specialist services focussed upon programmes for individual children.

In reviewing the existing provision we have taken the following criteria into account:

- the need to provide sufficient places
- the need to match the structure to the geographical spread of needs
- the need to have clear links with other behaviour support services

We would like to hear your views about the proposal to open a primary support base at Radburn Primary School. **Please let me have your views by Monday 14 June 2004.** Return the attached form or use our on-line reply service at www/hertsdirect.org/psb, or write to Pauline Davis at the above address. If you, or someone you know, needs information in any other form, or needs an interpreter, please contact Kate Maguire on 01992 555897.

If you have any questions about the proposal please contact either Jan Hardy on 01582 830299 or Pauline Davis on 01992 555865.

The Cabinet of the County Council will take your views into account before deciding on 12 July 2004 whether to continue with its proposal and to publish a statutory notice. If it decides to proceed notices would be published in September for a period of six weeks. Any objections received would be referred to the Hertfordshire School Organisation Committee, which would decide whether the base should open.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

John Harris
Director of Children, Schools & Families