

Cabinet – Thursday 11 July 2019

Written Question from Kevin Shaw

Re: West Wight School Places – Outcome of Consultation

The Governors of St Saviours, Shalfleet and Yarmouth Schools, which are the only three Ofsted 'Good' Schools in the West Wight, have all stated they are firmly against this proposal. They have expressed serious concerns about the negative impact of the proposal on children's outcomes, the failure of the proposed plan to reduce surplus places, and the likely future effect of this on the stability of the only 'Good'-rated Ofsted schools we have in the West Wight. Why have you ignored all this?

Response

The feedback received from the respective governing bodies along with the feedback from all other stakeholders has been fully and very carefully considered through-out the decision making processes. Nothing has been ignored to date and I can assure all present that nothing will be ignored going forward.

I, and my officers are absolutely committed to ensuring that any negative impact on children's learning and overall wellbeing is avoided. To this end it is proposed that two implementation groups are formed to support the recommendations in my report if finally approved in October. These groups will bring together all the required educational professionals and governors to ensure this happens and children's learning is in no way negatively impacted. I am very confident this can be achieved.

The proposals currently before Cabinet and as I have explained in answer to the previous question will reduce the overall capacity across the West Wight schools. It will, as importantly remove one school which, in its self will offer greater stability of numbers and finance for the four remaining schools as we enter what will be a period of decline in overall pupil numbers in the area.