

From Mr S D Sheahan CC

Submission to Cabinet, 9th March 2018

Item 5 - DETERMINATION OF STATUTORY NOTICE FOR THE REMOVAL (CLOSURE) OF RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES AT MAPLEWELL HALL SPECIAL SCHOOL

The contribution of the residential facilities to the overall educational outcomes of pupils at Maplewell has sadly been underestimated, as have the longer term costs of removing them. The prolonged financial climate of austerity has led to an increasing number of short-sighted decisions in local government, which are stoking up problems for subsequent years. The closure decision will leave future cohorts of vulnerable young people less well equipped in terms of life and social skills, which are a solid platform for future attainment.

Maplewell has achieved real value for its pupils through the maintenance of a residential offer, which more than justifies the monetary cost. A resolution perhaps could be found and a substantial saving still made, with a more flexible and creative approach and perhaps a little more time. I hope the Cabinet will seriously consider the local member's suggestion to delay the closure decision and give Maplewell's highly-valued residential facilities a further chance.

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