

**Bracknell Forest Council
Record of Decision**

Work Programme Reference	I120786
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1. **TITLE:** Outcome of College Hall Pupil Referral Unit consultation

2. **SERVICE AREA:** People

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

The Executive to consider the outcome of the public consultation process and take a decision on the proposed closure of College Hall Pupil Referral Unit.

4. **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Executive

6. **DECISION:**

RESOLVED that

- 1 the pre-consultation feedback and outcomes of the public consultation on the potential closure of College Hall Pupil Referral Unit be noted
- 2 subject to the DfE agreeing to revoke the Academy Order, the closure of College Hall PRU following the public consultation be agreed, for the reasons summarised in the report.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

The council's invitation to join the Department for Education's Safety Valve Intervention Programme in July 2023 led to a detailed review of all areas of expenditure within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), which includes the High Needs Block. This was undertaken by the council working together with local headteachers and other stakeholders including parent and carer representatives. The potential closure of College Hall PRU emerged as an option for the council to consider in Autumn 2023, supported by various factors including an inadequate Ofsted inspection in July 2023 and consensus among headteachers and other stakeholders that it was no longer fit for purpose. From a financial perspective, the current operating model for the PRU is no longer sustainable. In December 2023 College Hall's Management Committee considered the likely implications of a material reduction in its funding due to lower pupil admissions and concluded that this would make the facility unviable.

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

The council's ability to consult on potential closure of the PRU is dependent on the Department for Education (DfE) decision to revoke the academy order which was placed on College Hall following its Ofsted inspection. A request to the DfE to take this action has been submitted by the College Hall Management Committee. If this request is not granted, Bracknell Forest Council will reduce the number of funded places and top up additions to reflect the level of provision required to support children and young people under Section 19

duty i.e., for those children and young people who have been permanently excluded.

9. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Executive Director: People

10. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None

Date Decision Made	Final Day of Call-in Period
21 May 2024	29 May 2024