

Consultation on proposed changes to the boundary between the dual catchment areas for Blatchington Mill/Hove Park and Dorothy Stringer/Varndean

The current position

Currently the border between these two catchment areas runs along the London-Brighton railway line. This boundary is clear and well-defined, but experience has shown that families living between the railway line and Dyke Road find travelling to Hove Schools (particularly Hove Park Lower School) problematic. The council currently supports a bus service (Service 96) which travels between the area and Blatchington Mill/Hove Park Upper and Lower Schools, but any child relying on this service is unable to attend after school activities.

The proposal

The proposal is to shift the boundary of the dual catchment area westwards so that the boundary between the two catchment areas would be Dyke Road, with families to the east of Dyke Road falling in the catchment area for Dorothy Stringer and Varndean, and families to the west falling into the area for Blatchington Mill and Hove Park.

There are three possible options for the southern end of Dyke Road:

- 1) the boundary between the catchment areas would be Dyke Road as far as the Brighton-Worthing railway line. The boundary would continue along this railway line as far as Brighton Station, where it would continue down West Street (the current boundary)- this affects the area shown in map 1
- 2) the boundary between the catchment areas would be Dyke Road as far as the Seven Dials. The boundary would then be Buckingham Place, with properties on the south side of the road falling into the BM/HP catchment area and families on the northern side falling into the DS/V catchment area. The boundary would then continue down Terminus Road (which only has homes on the side facing the station-these would fall into the BM/HP area) to the station and thence down Queens Road and West Street (the current boundary)- this affects the area shown in map 1 plus the area shown in map 2
- 3) the boundary between the catchment areas would be Dyke Road/North Street as far as the clock tower and continue down West Street (the current boundary)-this affects all the areas shown in maps 1,2 and 3

Rationale

Shifting the boundary would be possible as there is now extra provision at Dorothy Stringer School, since their PAN has increased from 311 to 330. It would also in some respects be desirable as, besides the situation outlined above, the number of children in the Hove area is increasing year on year and

may reach the point where it is not possible to accommodate all Hove children in Hove schools. However consideration should be given to the impact of increasing the size of the DS/V catchment area as these schools currently have relatively few places available for students living outside the catchment area- last year Varndean was only able to offer places to nine students living outside the catchment area, and Dorothy Stringer none at all. This was prior to appeal and using the old PAN of 311 for Dorothy Stringer. The numbers of students living in the areas in question are shown on the attached spreadsheet. It should be borne in mind when considering these figures that a percentage of these students will prefer to attend Cardinal Newman or an alternative school, and also that the abolition of the sibling link for children living outside the catchment area (if adopted) could lead to more places becoming available for children living in area.

Numbers affected

The table below shows the numbers of children living in the affected areas and their current year groups (ie the year groups they are in during 2011/12). The year groups shown in red would be affected by the changes.

Year Group (2011/12)	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	R
Pupil Numbers- Option 1	48	47	53	56	46	56	57	65	66	78	80	76
Option 2- additional	2	0	2	1	1	2	1	0	1	2	0	3
Option 3- additional	11	11	9	15	9	20	19	15	27	22	18	33