HIGHLAND COUNCIL

CARE AND LEARNING SERVICE

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared on a proposal to:

• discontinue the provision of education at the Black Isle Education Centre.

**Details of Consultation To Be Carried Out:**

 The Proposal will be the subject of statutory consultation from under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, as amended.

 In accordance with statutory requirements, the following will be consulted:

(i) Parents of pupils currently receiving a service from the Black Isle Education Centre;

(ii) Any pupils currently receiving a service from the Black Isle Education Centre.

(iii) Members of Parliament and Members of Scottish Parliament for the area affected by the proposal;

(iv) Staff of the Black Isle Education Centre.

(vi) Trade union representatives;

(vii) Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council;

(viii) Education Scotland;

(ix) Highland Youth Convenor.

(x) Members of the Highland Community Planning Partnership

 The proposal document will also be advertised in the local press and on the Highland Council website.

 A public meeting will be held in the Centre on 29 June 2016. This meeting will be advertised in advance in the local press and on the Highland Council Facebook page.

**IDENTIFIED IMPACTS**

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| Equality Category | Impact | Evidence |
| AGE | Neutral. | The proposal relates to a school and as such primarily affects children in the age for school years, and their parents. The proposal is advanced on the basis of educational benefit to the children concerned. No negative age related effects arise. Age is not a protected characteristic for the purposes of schools provision. |
| DISABILITY | Positive | The proposal is aimed at improving the integration of disabled pupils within the larger peer group available in “mainstream” schools. It will also provide more flexible and better targeted support to young people with social, emotional and behavioural needs. |
| GENDER | Positive | Under the present arrangements only boys may be admitted to the roll of the Black Isle Education Centre. The proposal would provide more equitable gender provision for pupils with social, emotional and behavioural needs.  |
| PREGNANCY AND MATERNITY | Neutral | There would be no direct impact on pregnancy and maternity issues. |
| GENDER REASSIGNMENT | Neutral | The proposal will have no impact on gender reassignment equality. |
| MARRIAGE AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP | Neutral | The proposal will have no impact on equality issues around marriage and civil partnership. |
| MINORITY LANGUAGES | Neutral | There would be no impact on minority languages.  |
| RACE | Neutral | The proposal will have no impact on race equality. |
| RELIGION OR BELIEF | Neutral | The proposal will have no impact on religious equality. |
| SEXUAL ORIENTATION | Neutral | The proposal will have no impact on equality around sexual orientation. |
| LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN | Positive | The proposal is advanced on the basis of the educational benefit to those attending the Centre. Some of those attending will be Looked After Children. The proposed provision will also support LAC returning from residential provision out-with Highland. |
| YOUNG CARERS | Neutral | There would be no impacts on Young Carers.   |
| CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING IN DEPRIVATION | Positive | The proposal is advanced on the basis of the educational benefit to those attending the Centre. Children living in deprivation form a disproportionate number of the Centre’s users, and the proposal would of benefit to those pupils. |