

CONSULTATION PAPER PROPOSED CLOSURE OF SOUTH STREET NURSERY SCHOOL and PROPOSED NEW NURSERY PLACES AT HEYBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL

6th November 2015



INTRODUCTION

1. The Local Authority needs to keep under review early years provision to make sure there are enough places to meet the statutory duty of sufficiency of places being available for 2-4 year olds across a range of settings, and at the same time the Authority has to make sure that school governing bodies can set a balanced budget.

WHAT IS PROPOSED

2. ***The Local Authority is consulting on the closure of South Street Nursery School with effect from 31st August 2016; and a prescribed alteration to Heybrook CP School to change the age range from 4-11 years to 2-11 years with effect from 1st September 2016 through the provision of a new nursery class either on the site of Heybrook CP School or by retaining the current South Street Nursery School building.***
3. ***The views of interested parties are sought before Cabinet takes a decision on whether to publish legal proposals for these changes.***
4. Many of the children attending South Street Nursery School are from families whose older siblings attend Heybrook CP School. The establishment of a nursery class at Heybrook CP could be a significant benefit to the community served by the primary school because the majority of children and their families live in the area served by the school. There is also a satellite Children's Centre on the Heybrook site. Additional accommodation could be added to this building for the nursery children. The Children's Centre accommodation is subject to the wider review of early years provision in the Borough.

WHY IS THE CLOSURE OF SOUTH STREET BEING CONSIDERED?

5. Rochdale Local Authority has undertaken a review of the Nursery Schools across the Borough, to assess their financial viability in both the short term and the long term. The need to do this is because there have been changes in recent years so that all funding for nursery places is allocated through the Early Years Single Funding Formula (SFF) under Designated Schools Grant. Funding is allocated for 570 hours per year per child attending (15 hours per week), 38 weeks of the year, and is calculated using a formula to ensure that equity of funding is applied across all settings. Nursery schools are one of a range of providers who provide funded, free entitlement places. Funding is paid according to the attendance of the child and is allocated termly. The SFF allocates sector specific funding rates and, because of the high overheads (staff structures etc.), nursery schools receive a much higher rate than other settings.
6. The hourly rate provided to nursery schools under this formula is significantly higher than other providers to recognise the higher fixed costs these schools face. Providers are funded on actual participation rates, therefore funding is not provided for empty places. South Street Nursery School has a capacity of 158 part-time places. The October 2015 School Census shows there were 106 children on roll (53fte), about 67% occupancy.
7. The Governing Body of South Street Nursery School is finding it difficult to maintain a balanced budget and does not have high levels of reserves. It has been able to set a balanced

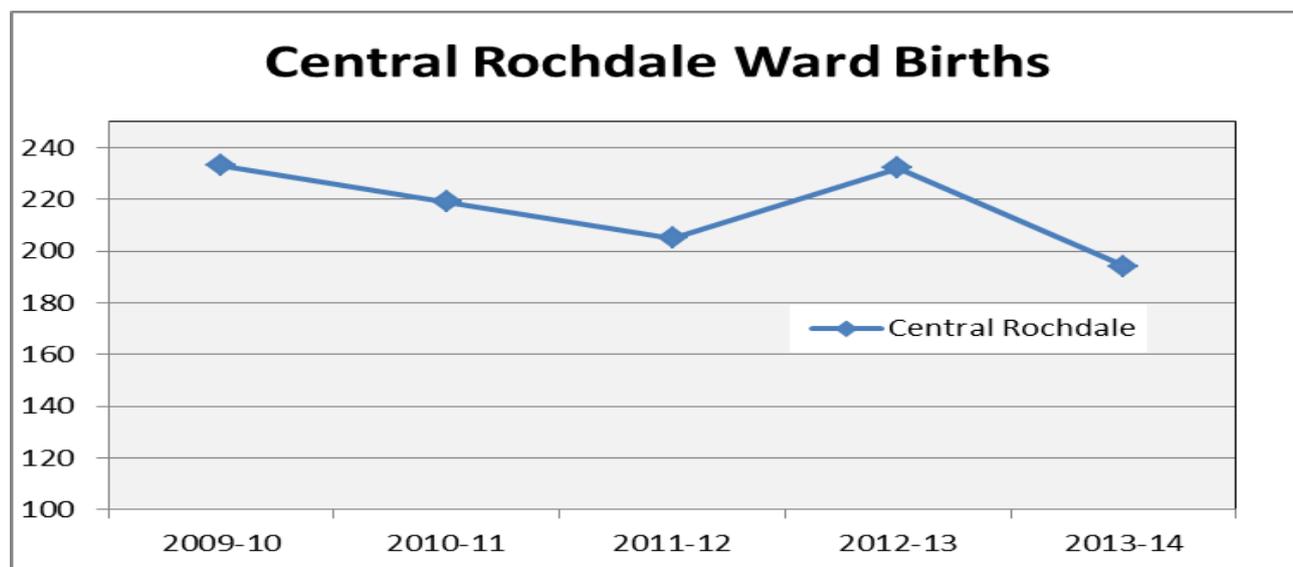
budget for 2015-16 but will find it hard to continue to do so for future years because of internal and external factors including a falling birth rate, and a national funding review of which the outcome is not yet known, there is a potential for this to have an adverse effect on funding rates for Nursery Schools.

- The proposed establishment of this provision as a Nursery Class for Heybrook CP School would alleviate many of these financial pressures as the costs would be significantly lessened through decreased statutory staffing requirements and consolidated running and management costs whilst maintaining the overall level of current provision.

BIRTH DATA FOR ROCHDALE TOWNSHIP

- The level of demand for nursery places will change, because there has been a fall in the number of children born in the Township as a whole, and in Central Rochdale Ward. The table and graph below shows the number of children born in Central Rochdale Ward between 2009/10 and 2013/14:

ROCHDALE TOWNSHIP					
Birth Year	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
<i>Nursery 1 (2 year old+) Admission Year</i>				Sept 15	Sept 16
<i>Nursery 2 (3year old+) Admission Year</i>			Sept-15	Sept 16	Sept 17
<i>Reception Admission Year (4year old+)</i>	Sep-14	Sep-15	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18
Norden	96	94	102	81	78
Bamford	113	99	115	105	132
Spotland and Falinge	178	179	172	182	152
Central Rochdale	233	219	205	232	194
Healey	126	123	112	118	114
Milkstone and Deeplish	275	211	238	243	209
Balderstone and Kirkholt	138	164	153	163	151
Kingsway	213	181	217	233	227
Castleton	117	114	124	129	125
<i>Township Total Births</i>	1489	1384	1438	1486	1382



RECENT TREND IN TAKE UP OF PLACES AT SOUTH STREET NURSERY SCHOOL and OTHER MAINTAINED SETTINGS

- South Street Nursery School has a capacity of 78 Full-Time Equivalent places. The following table below shows the number of children on roll at the Nursery School and in neighbouring maintained nursery class settings in schools between October 2013 and the October 2015 census:

(a) Take up of places October 2013- October 2014

School	Capacity (FTE places)	Oct 2013			Jan 2014				May 2014				Oct 2014			
		N 2	FTE	Occupancy %	N 1	N 2	FTE	Occupancy %	N 1	N 2	FTE	Occupancy %	N 1	N 2	FTE	Occupancy %
		South Street Nursery	78	74	37	47	28	71	50	64	46	72	59	75	0	63
Greenbank	26	28	14	53	10	29	20	76	16	29	23	88	0	30	15	57
All Saints	26	32	16	61	12	32	22	84	14	33	24	92	0	32	16	61
Howard Street Nursery	26	50	25	96	0	53	27	104	1	55	28	107	0	37	19	73

(b) Take up of places January 2015 to October 2015

School	Capacity (FTE places)	Jan 2015				May 2015				Oct 2015			
		N 1	N 2	FTE	Occupancy %	N 1	N 2	FTE	Occupancy %	N 1	N 2	FTE	Occupancy %
South Street Nursery School	78	41	62	52	66	41	64	53	68	37	69	53	68
Greenbank	26	7	35	21	80	16	35	26	100	2	27	15	55
All Saints	26	5	35	20	76	4	36	20	76	0	25	13	48
Howard Street Nursery School	26	22	36	29	115	20	39	30	115	0	40	20	77

THE LEVEL OF PROVISION and TAKE UP OF NURSERY PLACES IN THE TOWNSHIP

11. The last Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (April 2014/15) identified the levels of take-up of free entitlement places across the Borough. Overall within Central Rochdale Ward (location of the Nursery School) the level of take up of places was 91%. This is across all types of setting. In Central Rochdale Ward there were 501 children eligible for the free nursery entitlement in the Summer Term 2015. 405 children resident in the ward access their free entitlement that is 81% take up. 96 children resident in the ward access their entitlement in other wards.
12. Take up of free places entitlement by setting and Lower Super Output Area in Central Rochdale Ward:

LSOA	Total Number of Children Accessing	Maintained Nursery School	Maintained Nursery Class	Playgroup	Private Day Nursery	Child minder	Independent
E01005482	26	5	16	0	5	0	0
E01005486	64	10	45	0	7	0	2
E01005580	61	10	37	7	7	0	0
E01005581	49	9	27	4	9	0	0
E01005582	62	21	25	9	7	0	0
E01005583	35	23	10	1	1	0	0
E01005584	55	13	26	3	12	0	1
E01005585	53	17	24	2	10	0	0
Total	405	108	210	26	58	0	3

THE QUALITY OF MAINTAINED SECTOR EARLY YEARS PLACEMENTS IN THE AREA

13. Should both the Nursery School and its associated day care service close, provision will transfer to Heybrook CP School. The current OfSTED judgement for South Street is Outstanding. The current Ofsted judgement for Heybrook CP School is Good. Other maintained school settings have a current Ofsted grade of good or requires improvement.
14. This means there is alternative provision of a comparable quality within a reasonable and accessible distance from South Street Nursery School should parents want an alternative early

years provider to Heybrook CP School. All providers and their current OfSTED grade are detailed in the following table:

Setting	Sector	Grade	Maximum Places p/t
Howard Street	Nursery School	Requires Improvement	52
South Street	Nursery School	Outstanding	104
Heybrook	Pre School Playgroup	Good	52
Heybrook	Primary School	Good	0
All Saints CE	Primary School& Nursery Class	Good	52
Greenbank	Primary School& Nursery Class	Good	52

15. There are alternative providers in the adjoining ward of Smallbridge and Firgrove which are within walking distance for residents should these places be chosen. These providers all have a current Ofsted grade of Good. It is worth noting that a further provider will shortly be opening in Central Rochdale Ward offering a further minimum of 60 places for 3 and 4 year olds.

DEPRIVATION IN CENTRAL ROCHDALE WARD

16. Central Rochdale Ward is an area which experiences high levels of multiple deprivation. South Street Nursery School is sited one of 3% most deprived LSOA nationally, and Heybrook CP is sited in Central Rochdale

WHAT IS PROPOSED FOR HEYBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL?

17. If the closure of South Street Nursery School is agreed, then replacement nursery places would be set up at Heybrook Primary School. This would be done by changing the age range of the school from 4-11 to become 2-11. The school would offer 156 part time nursery places (78 full-time equivalent). A feasibility study will be undertaken to consider whether the nursery places for Heybrook Primary School should be set up on the Heybrook school site or the (then) former South Street site, including consideration of outdoor play space.
18. The current age range at Heybrook CP School is 5-11, and the Admission Number is 90, with a capacity of 629 places (Reception to Year 6). The school currently has 591 children on roll based on the May 2015 census. The proposed Nursery Class would be for 78 Full-time Equivalent (FTE) children, changing the age range of the school from 5-11 to 2-11.

HOW WILL THE NURSERY CLASSES BE ORGANISED AT HEYBROOK CP SCHOOL?

19. Decisions on how the nursery places would be managed will be decided by the Governing Body of Heybrook Primary School if the closure of South Street Nursery School is agreed, and may also depend on the outcome of the feasibility to see whether the provision should be located on the primary school site or the nursery school site. Key aspects of the arrangements will be:
- * The number of Teachers and Teaching Assistants would comply with required staffing ratios for the age of children;
 - * The provision would operate on two daily sessions (morning and afternoon);
 - * Children will be entitled to the 15 hours provision;
 - * The curriculum will be the Early Years Foundation Stage which is also followed in the Reception classes at Heybrook CP School;
 - * Admission criteria are the standard local authority admission criteria for admission to a nursery class;
 - * A copy of which is attached in Appendix Five;
 - * Admission to the nursery class does NOT give a priority for a place in the Reception Year Group at Heybrook CP School;
 - * Children will be a full part of the school and would therefore wear school uniform.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A NURSERY CLASS AT HEYBROOK CP?

20. The benefits to the school and children of the Nursery Class will be:
- To facilitate better transition for the children. The school currently takes children from a number of different settings which does not allow for efficient transfer of information and can lead to social and emotional difficulties when settling in to their new school. Last year's cohort

came from 8 different nurseries/childcare providers.

- Early identification of vulnerable groups. This will mean that the needs of new children can be identified as early as possible.
- Consistent baseline data. This will improve standards and outcomes for children because time saved on transition logistics will be spent on providing for their needs.
- There will be continuity of provision which will reflect the ethos and culture of the school.
- Current parents have expressed a desire for a nursery on the premises.
- Developing strong and effective parental links from the earliest possible opportunity.
- Standards throughout school will be raised because older children will have opportunities to interact with younger children.
- Provision for Reception pupils would be enhanced, e.g. outdoor provision.
- Creation of links with other providers that are facilitating the new two year old entitlement.
- Ease of access for families who already know and trust the school.
- Opportunities for existing staff to enhance Continuing Professional Development.

HOW WILL THE PROPOSALS BE FUNDED?

21. Funding for all Early Years Providers is via the Early Years Single Funding Formula. This is based on actual numbers of children accessing their entitlement. The decrease in pupil numbers puts additional pressure on the budget.
22. Capital costs for the provision of a nursery class at Heybrook will be determined and reported to future meetings of Cabinet if a decision is taken to proceed. Any capital receipt from the disposal of the South Street site would contribute to the costs. Any shortfall would be met from specific earmarked funds from the Education Funding Agency for the provision of early education for 2 year olds and would not be a call on general Council funds.

WHAT CONSULTATION WILL BE UNDERTAKEN?

23. Consultation on these proposals will be in accordance with statutory guidance. The consultation documents are available on the School and Local Authority Websites. The following groups of people and individuals will be consulted:

- * *Parents and Carers of children at South Street Nursery School & Heybrook Primary School*
- * *Staff at South Street Nursery School & Heybrook Primary School*
- * *South Street Nursery School & Heybrook Primary School Governors*
- * *Heybrook Children's Centre*
- * *Headteachers & Governing Bodies of all Pennines and Rochdale Primary and Secondary Schools*
- * *Private & Voluntary Early Years Providers in a 2 mile radius of the school*
- * *Secretaries of Recognised Trades Unions*
- * *Rochdale Township Councillors*
- * *MPs for Rochdale*
- * *Youth MP & Children's Champion for Rochdale*
- * *Manchester Church of England Diocese*
- * *Salford Roman Catholic Diocese*
- * *The Methodist Church- Rochdale and Littleborough Circuit*
- * *Early Years Childcare Providers*

HOW IS MY CHILD AFFECTED?

22. Older nursery children at South Street Nursery School, who will be moving to Reception classes next September, are not affected. Younger children at South Street Nursery School will be offered places at the new provision at Heybrook CP School for September 2016.

HOW CAN I MAKE MY VIEWS KNOWN TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY?

24. All responses received in the consultation will be considered. Interested parties can also submit additional comments. The following meetings will be held as part of this consultation:

South Street	Open Drop-in for Parents,	EITHER Thursday 12th November 2015 @ 11am-
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Nursery School	and Interested Parties	12pm OR Thursday 12th November 2015 @ 3pm-4pm
	Meeting for Staff	Tuesday 10th November 2015 @ 11:45am
Heybrook CP School	Open Drop-in for Parents, and Interested Parties	Wednesday 18th November 2015 @ 3:30pm-7pm
	Meeting for Staff	Wednesday 18th November @ 3:20pm
	Meeting for Student Council	Wednesday 2nd December 2015 @ 1.30pm

25. The consultation will take place between Wednesday 4th November 2015 and midnight on Thursday 3rd December 2015. Responses to the consultation should be sent to Robert Aspinall, by e-mail at robert.aspinall@rochdale.gov.uk or by post to Robert Aspinall, Rochdale Borough Council, Early Help & Schools, Floor 4, Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale, OL16 1XU.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THAT?

26. After the close of the consultation period, the Cabinet of Rochdale Council will consider responses to the proposal for the alteration of the school and decide whether to publish statutory proposals. If the decision is taken to publish proposals there would then be a further 4 week representation period, at the end of which the Local Authority will make the final decision in accordance with Statutory Guidance and Regulations.

27. An Equality Impact Assessment is attached in Appendix Five.

Chris Swift
School Organisation & Development Manager
6th November 2015

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX ONE - ROCHDALE TOWNSHIP Birth Data- Children born in 2010-11 for Reception in 2016

APPENDIX TWO - Rochdale Township – Map of Schools

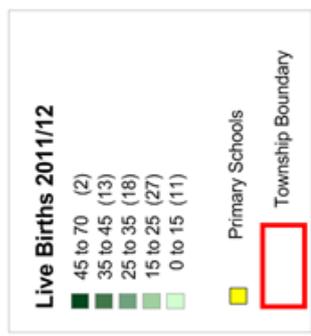
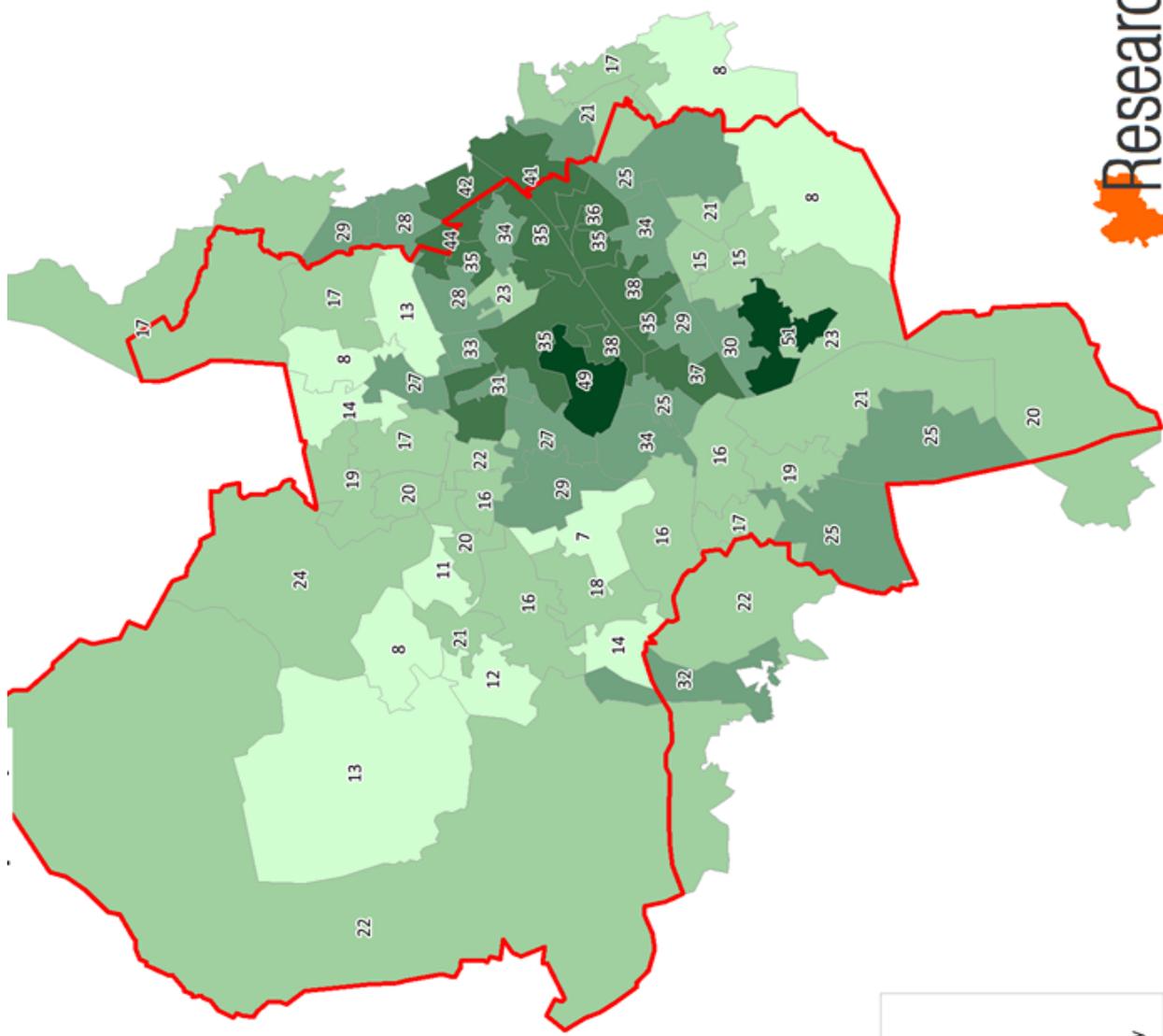
APPENDIX THREE – Birth Distribution Maps - Distribution of Children attending South Street Nursery School and Heybrook Primary School

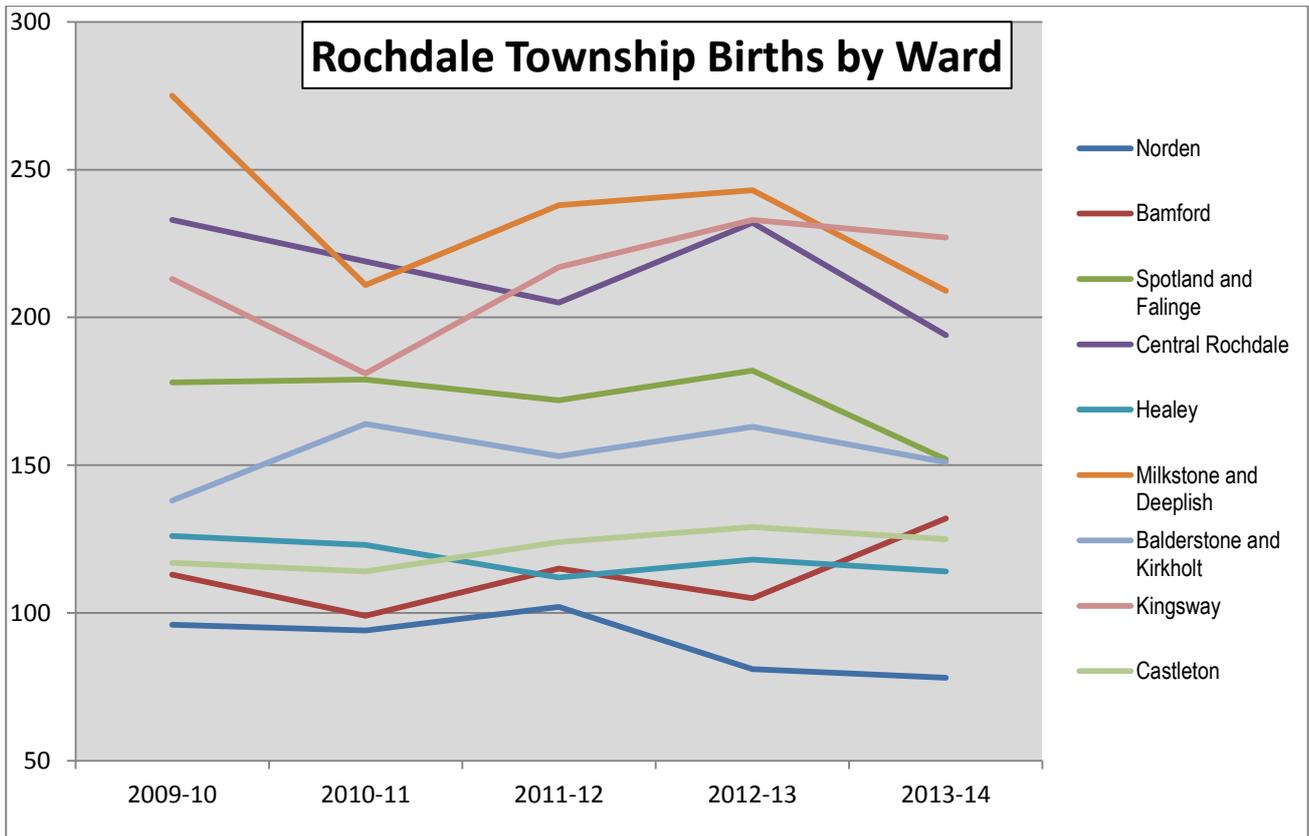
APPENDIX FOUR – Lower Super Output Areas

APPENDIX FIVE – Nursery Admission Policy

APPENDIX SIX – Equality Impact Assessment

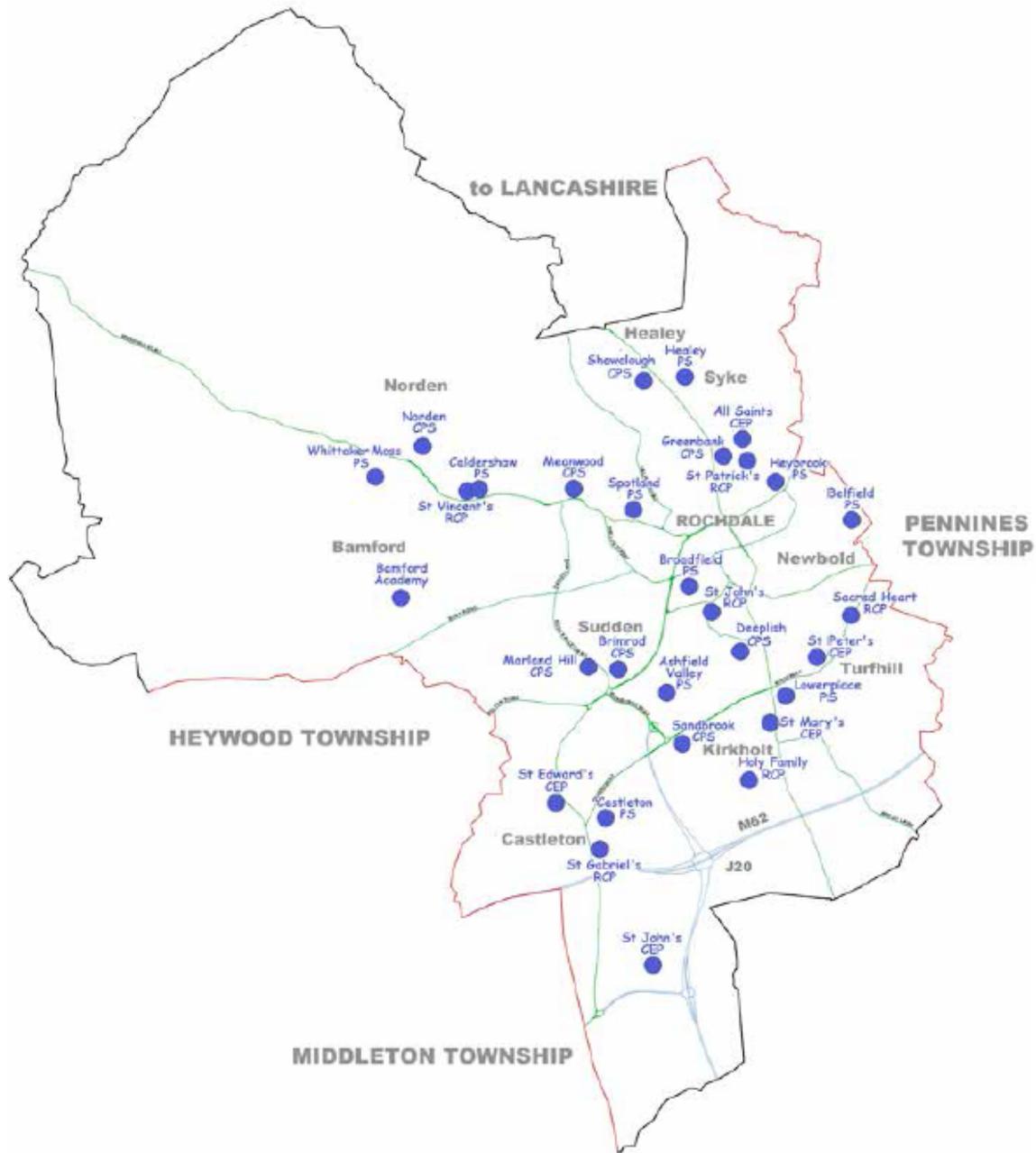
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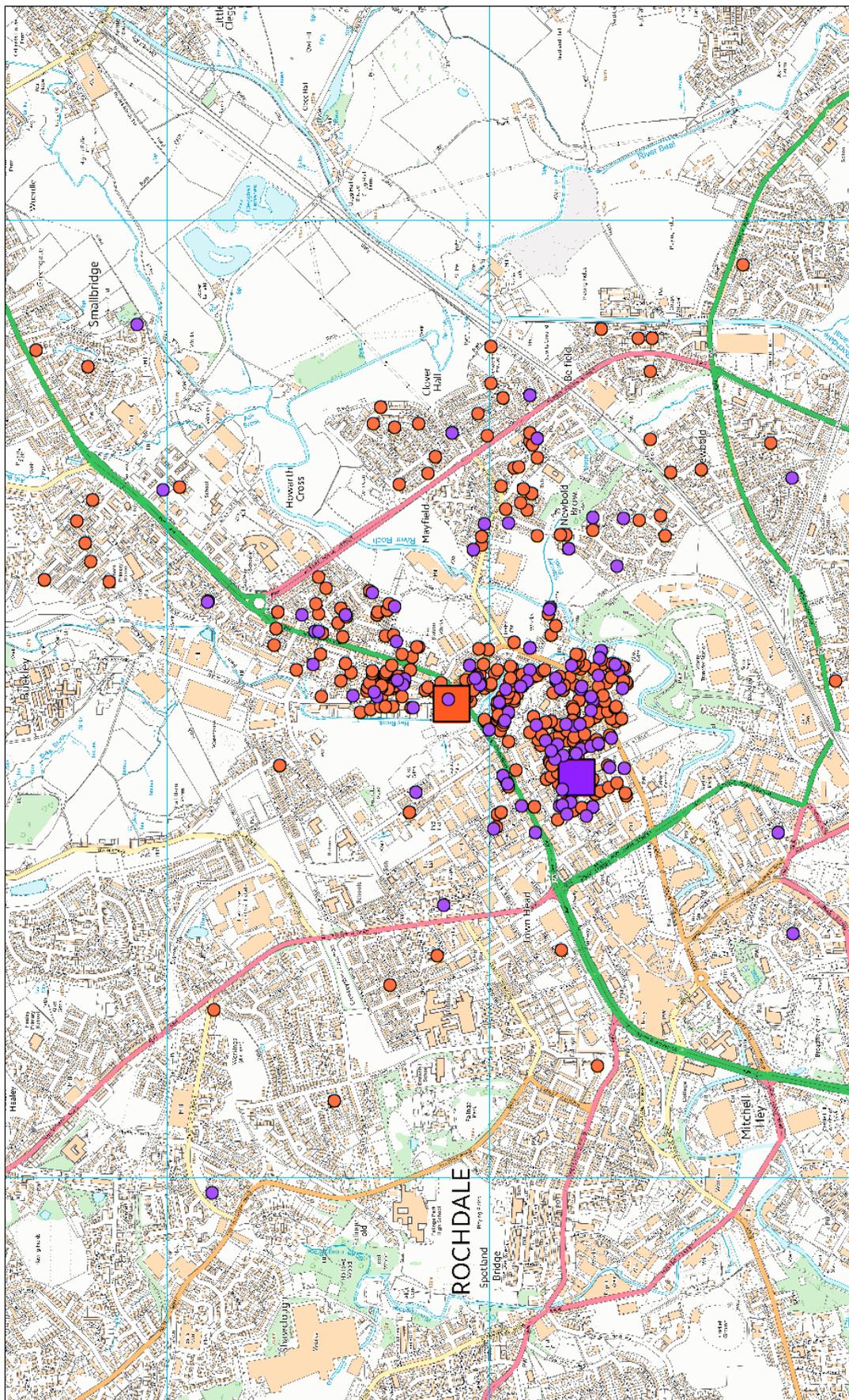


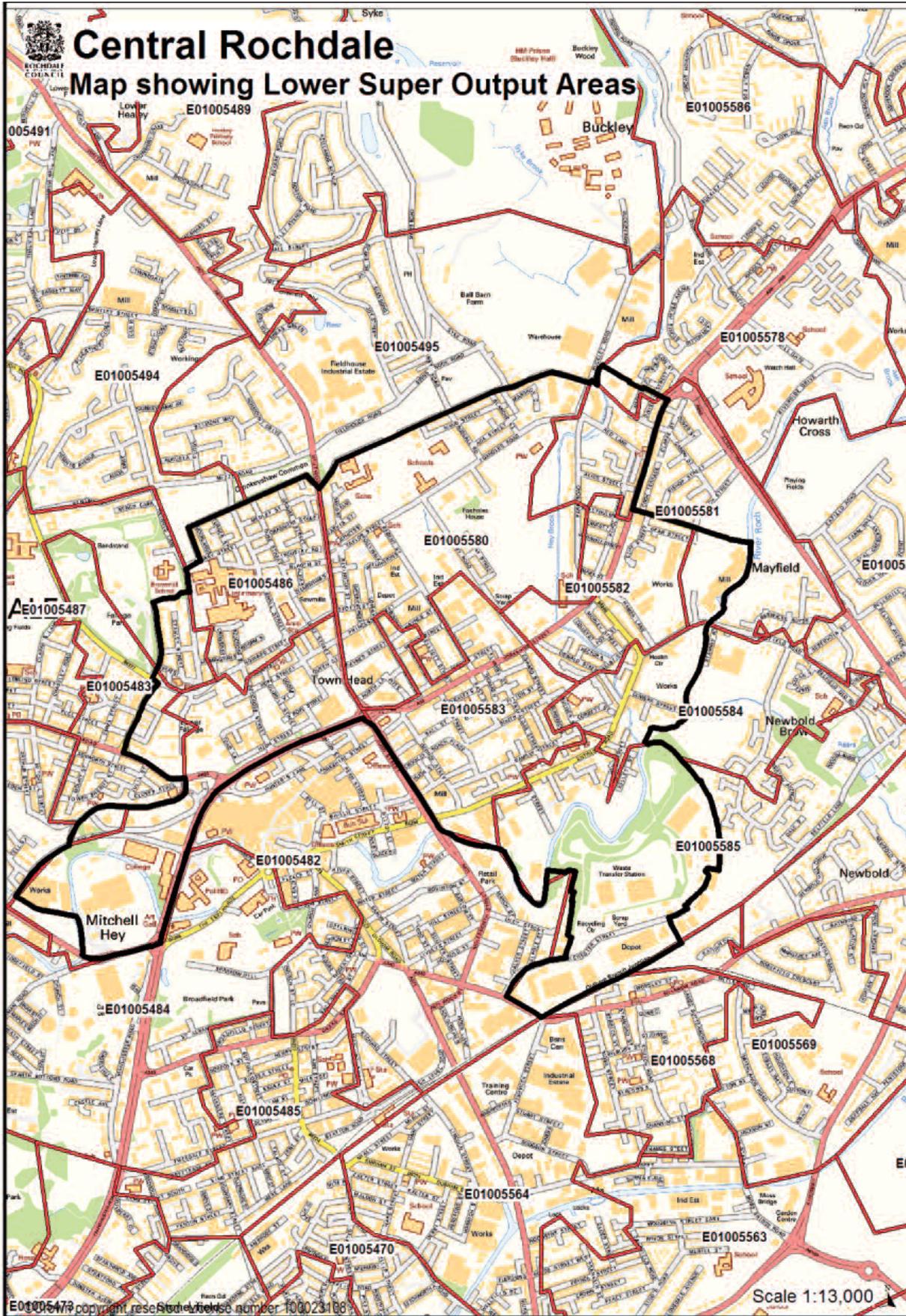
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Township Total Births	1489	1384	1438	1486	1382

APPENDIX TWO - Rochdale Township – Map of Schools



APPENDIX THREE – Birth Distribution Maps - Distribution of Children attending South Street Nursery School (marked purple) and Heybrook Primary School (marked red)





What are you assessing? Please tick the appropriate box below.

Function	Strategy	Policy	Project	Other, please specify below
X				
Service: Early Help and Schools			Section: Schools Organisation & Development Team	
Responsible Officer: Chris Swift			Name of function/strategy/ policy/ project assessed: South Street Nursery School- Proposed Discontinuance and Heybrook Community Primary (CP) School establishment of a nursery class	
Date of Assessment: 20th October 2015				
Officers Involved: Chris Swift				
1. What is the purpose of the function/strategy/policy/project assessed? <i>(Briefly describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the function/strategy/policy/project)</i>				
To discontinue South Street Nursery School from 31st August 2016 and change the age range of Heybrook CP to add a new 80 FTE place nursery class				
2. Who are the key stakeholders?				
South Street Nursery School and Heybrook CP- Residents of Central Rochdale Ward and governors of the two schools				
3. What is the scope of this equality impact assessment? That is, what is included in this assessment.				
This Equality Impact Assessment covers the proposed discontinuance of South Street Nursery School, and the establishment of a nursery class at Heybrook CP School.				
4. Which needs is this function/strategy/ policy/ project designed to meet?				
To ensure that the resources of the Local Authority are used effectively in the provision of school places. In this case there are expected to be more places available for nursery age children in the Central Rochdale Ward than children to fill them, and the Governing Body of South Street Nursery School would be unable to set a balanced budget which it is required to do. To continue with the nursery school would not represent an efficient use of resources whereas the establishment of nursery provision at Heybrook would be more financially sustainable in the longer term.				
5. Has a needs analysis been undertaken?				
Yes. The Local Authority undertook a Review of Nursery School provision in the Borough which was reported to Cabinet on 29th September 2014.				
6. Who is affected by this function/strategy/ policy/ project?				
The residents of Central Rochdale ward, parents of children at the schools, staff and governors at the two schools, other schools in the Township, Early Years and Childcare providers, Diocesan Authorities, Secretaries of recognised Trades Unions, elected members and the local MP.				
7. Who has been involved in the review or development of this function/strategy/ policy/ project and who has been consulted? State your consultation/involvement methodology.				
Cabinet on 2nd November 2015 considered a report on the future of the nursery school and the possible change in age range at Heybrook CP school and authorised public consultation on the proposals. The arrangements for consultation on proposals such as these are set out in statutory guidance published by the Department for Education (DfE). There will be a 4 week consultation period which will include publicising the proposals on the council website and sending out letters to parents and staff of the schools concerned. There will be open				

meetings at each school where interested parties can attend to ask questions, and written comments are invited. At the end of the consultation period Cabinet will consider responses submitted and decide whether to publish statutory proposals. In that case there is a further 4 week representation period during which time any interested party can give their views on the proposals. Cabinet would then consider any submissions before determining the proposals following statutory guidance.

8. What data have you considered for this assessment and have any gaps in the data been identified. What action will be taken to close any data gaps?

3.1 THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN CENTRAL ROCHDALE WARD and ROCHDALE TOWNSHIP

(see Cabinet report)

3.2 THE RECENT TREND IN TAKE UP OF PLACES AT THE SCHOOL compared to other maintained settings.

South Street Nursery School has a capacity of 80 Full-Time Equivalent places. The following table below shows the number of children on roll at the Nursery School and in neighbouring maintained nursery class settings in schools between September 2012 and the May 2015 census:

School	Capacity (FTE places)	Oct 2013			Jan 2014				May 2014				Oct 2014				Jan 2015				May 2015			
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All Saints	26	32	16	61	12	32	22	84	14	33	24	92	0	32	16	61	5	35	20	76	4	36	20	76
Howard Street Nursery		50	25		0	53	27		1	55	28		0	37	19		22	36	29		20	39	30	

3.3 THE LEVEL OF PROVISION and TAKE UP OF NURSERY PLACES IN THE TOWNSHIP

The last Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (April 2014/15) identified the levels of take-up of free entitlement places across the Borough. Overall within Central Rochdale Ward (location of the Nursery School) the level of take up of places was 91%. This is across all types of setting.

In Central Rochdale Ward there were 501 children eligible for the free nursery entitlement in the Summer Term 2015. 405 children resident in the ward access their free entitlement that is 81% take up. 96 children resident in the ward access their entitlement in other wards.

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E01005583		35	23	10	1	1	0	0
E01005584		55	13	26	3	12	0	1
E01005585		53	17	24	2	10	0	0

3.4 THE QUALITY OF ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENTS IN THE AREA

Should both the Nursery School and its associated day care service close, provision will transfer to Heybrook CP School. The current OfSTED judgement for South Street is Outstanding. The current Ofsted judgement for Heybrook CP school is Good. Other maintained school services have a current Ofsted grade of good or requires improvement. This means there is alternative provision of a comparable quality within a reasonable and accessible distance from South Street should parents want an alternative early years provider to Heybrook CP. All providers and their current OfSTED grade are detailed in the following table:

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Greenbank	Primary School& Nursery Class	Good	52

There are alternative providers in the adjoining ward of Smallbridge and Wardleworth which are within walking distance for residents should these places be chosen. These providers all have a current Ofsted grade of Good. It is worth noting that a further provider will shortly be opening in this ward offering a further minimum of 60 places for 3&4 year old's.

3.5 DEPRIVATION IN CENTRAL ROCHDALE WARD Central Rochdale Ward is an area which experiences high levels of multiple deprivation. South Street Nursery School is sited one of 3% most deprived LSOA nationally, and Heybrook CP is sited in Central Rochdale

3.6 CONSULTATION

Public consultation is to be undertaken for four weeks in November 2015. To bring the proposal to the attention of residents and interested parties, a Public Notice will be published in the Rochdale Observer; the information also published on Rochdale Borough Council website. Additionally the following bodies and persons will be circulated with relevant information:

- The Governing Bodies of South Street Nursery School and Heywood CP School;
- Headteachers and Governing Bodies of all maintained schools and academies in the Borough;
- Early Years Providers in Rochdale and Pennines Township;
- Secretaries of Recognised Trades Unions;
- Rochdale Township Councillors;
- MP for Rochdale;
- Manchester Church of England Diocese;
- Salford Roman Catholic Diocese; and
- Neighbouring Local Authorities

9. Are there any other documents or strategies which are linked to this assessment? If so, please include hyperlinks to these documents below, where available.

no

10. What impact will this function/strategy/policy/project have on all the protected groups? This includes both positive and potentially negative impacts.

Race Equality

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessments, using 2008 ward profile data, identified that in Central Rochdale Ward (location of the School) xx% of the overall population is white, and x% from ethnic minorities, the largest being Pakistani (xx%). Across all the central Rochdale Ward Primary schools just over xx% of children are from ethnic minorities. There is no data held by the Authority which would give an accurate representation of the Refugee and Asylum seeker community. Data was not available at the time of writing this report on the numbers of asylum seeker families in the Township.

The proposed changes do not have an adverse impact on race equality considerations.

Disabled People
<i>In the 2011 census 21% of the population of the Borough indicated that they were disabled or had their activities were limited due to health related issues. The number and distribution of alternative providers in the Ward, and the establishment of the same level of provision at Heybrook means that the proposed change would not have an adverse impact on disabled people.</i>
Carers
<i>There is sufficient high quality alternative provision in the area to mitigate any adverse effect of access to provision by carers.</i>
Gender
<i>The scheme as proposed would not particularly impact on residents and their gender in either a positive or negative way.</i>
Age
<i>The proposed changes do not particularly impact on age considerations of residents in either a positive or negative way.</i>
Armed Forces and Ex-Armed Forces Personnel
<i>The proposed changes may have an adverse impact on returning armed services personnel in reducing preference for a nursery school setting, rather than a nursery class setting</i>
Sexual Orientation
<i>The proposed changes do not particularly impact on the sexual orientation of residents in either a positive or negative way.</i>
Gender Reassignment
<i>The proposed changes do not particularly impact on residents undergoing gender re-assignment in either a positive or negative way.</i>
Religion or Belief
<i>The proposal to discontinue provision in a community nursery school will not reduce the number of places in faith based maintained settings. As such the proposed changes would not have an adverse impact on religion or belief considerations.</i>
Pregnant Women or Those on Maternity Leave
<i>The proposed changes may have an impact on pregnant women or those on maternity leave. The effect of the proposed closure of the nursery school is mitigated by the establishment of the same volume of provision at Heybrook CP</i>
Marriage or Civil Partnership
<i>The proposed changes do not particularly impact on marriage or civil partnership considerations in either a positive or negative way.</i>
11. What are your main conclusions from this analysis?
<i>The closure of the Nursery School would be a disadvantage to the school itself. Children's centre services... Where children come from to attend the nursery school and the primary school</i>
12. What are your recommendations?
13. What actions are you going to take to address the findings of this assessment? Please attach an action plan including details of designated officers responsible for completing these actions.
<i>Statutory consultation process to be followed with a view to discontinuance of the school and the change in the age range of Heybrook CP school to 2-11 through the establishment of a new nursery class. In respect of the potential adverse effect on people from socio-economically disadvantaged groups, because there are a large number of alternative providers graded good or better, no specific actions are required.</i>

Signed (Completing Officer): _____ Chris Swift _____ Date: _ 20th October 2105_____

Signed (Head of Service): _____ Date: _____

Equality Impact Assessment Action Plan 2015/16

Action	Outcome	Target Date for Completion	Resource Implications	Lead Officer
Public Consultation starts November 2015	Consultees and interested parties able to express their views about the proposals	rd November 2015	Preparation, distribution & dissemination of consultation documents. Attendance at Township Committee meeting and open drop in meetings for parents and interested parties	C.Swift
Consideration of outcomes of consultation, and decisions on whether to publish statutory proposals.	Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet with recommendation on whether to proceed to publish statutory proposals	xxth December 2015	Preparation of Report for Cabinet and Overview & Scrutiny Committee	C.Swift
Public Representation on statutory proposals	Interested parties able to make representation on proposals		Preparation, distribution & dissemination of consultation documents. Attendance at Township Committee meeting and open drop in meetings for parents and interested parties	C.Swift
Determination of proposals	Cabinet considers representations and determines proposals		Preparation of Report for Cabinet and Overview & Scrutiny Committee	C.Swift
Implementation of Proposals	Discontinuance of South Street Nursery school and change in age range of Heybrook CP	31st August 2016/1st September 2016		C.Swift

NURSERY ADMISSIONS POLICY

Admission policies and procedures and provision are the same for all children regardless of needs or abilities. This is in line with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and the SEN code of practice (2001) which states that a child with a disability should be treated no less favourably than a child who does not have a disability.

LOCAL AUTHORITY PROVISION

Rochdale LA is traditionally a high quality provider of pre-school services. There are currently 44 nursery schools and nursery classes. Children usually start in a nursery class or nursery school in the September after their third birthday on a part-time basis attending either morning or afternoon sessions.

Some children may be eligible for the 2 Year Old Free entitlement (this is not available to all children and eligibility is determined by strict criteria). Since May 2015 schools can, if they wish, offer funded places to eligible children from the term after their second birthday or immediately after their third birthday. Not all schools choose to do this and you will need to check if this is available at a school you may consider choosing.

NURSERY EDUCATION GRANT PLACES PROVISION

Children aged three and four can claim up to 15 hours per week during term time. The sessions can be spread over more weeks per year but fewer hours per week (e.g. spreading the 570 hours over 50 weeks would equate to approx. 11.5 hours per week). However, this is linked to your providers' ability to offer this and not all settings can make a "stretched" offer in this way. The entitlement cannot exceed 570 hours per annum. Current funding for three and four year olds is determined through the Early Years Single Funding Formula which is based on information relating to children hours of attending and other factors such as disadvantage and Ofsted grade. The grant is paid direct to the provider (not to parents). Additional hours (including wraparound care) would have to be paid for and if your child attends less than the maximum number of sessions per week the amount of grant is reduced on a pro rata basis.

The table below shows the first terms in which children are entitled to a free part-time education place.

For example a child born on 5 October 2011 will be aged three on 5 October 2014. This child can have an early education place for up to three terms starting the Spring term (January) 2015 (the term following their **third birthday**).

Four Year Olds

If your child is four years old they are automatically eligible for the nursery grant.

Application

Most Local Authority Nursery Classes and schools have only one intake per year. For this reason parents/carers will need to make contact early in the Autumn term (September-December) following the child's 2nd birthday to request an application from your chosen nursery.

For eligible 2 Year Old children, parents will receive official notification that they are eligible for a funded 2 Year Old place and this should be taken to your provider as proof of eligibility. Places

cannot be offered without this proof of eligibility. Please remember that not all schools offer places for 2 Year Olds.

Allocation of Places

If there are more applications than there are places, then allocations will be:

Priority 1

1a Linguistic – where there is evidence of limited or late language development and written evidence of a referral to the Speech and Language Therapy Services.

1b Medical, Psychological or Social needs which are likely to affect learning. Supporting evidence is needed either from the Consultant Community Paediatrician, the Educational Psychology Service, or, in the case of a child on the child protection register or involved in a child protection enquiry, supporting evidence from Social Services.

1c Family where there are three or more children under 5 years old living full time in the household at the time of application

Priority 2

Proximity to the school measured by the nearest walking distance along roads or maintained footpaths, from the parental home which is the child's main residence. Confirmation of the main residence is required such as a child benefit book or utility bill.

Attendance

Although not statutory, regular attendance is important. If the child does not attend regularly without good reason, the Headteacher will write to the parents after three weeks absence to enquire whether the place is still required. If there is no response or no good reason, the place can be withdrawn but this must be confirmed in writing.

Funding

The Free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds covers provision of 570 hours per annum, across the voluntary, private and independent sector for three and four year olds.

September 2015