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Your contact: Fatima Ahmed

Parent
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Date: 24th November 2016

Dear Parent

Re: Proposed Withdrawal of Funding for School Crossing Patrol Service – Public Consultation

I am writing to you regarding the council's proposal to cease funding for the school crossing patrol (SCP) service from the next financial year (from April 2017), as your school has a SCP site attached to it. This proposal has arisen from a root and branch review of all non-statutory services Hounslow Council currently provides. We carried out this review because our ability to provide excellent local services is under more pressure than ever. Most of the funding the council spends on local services comes from central government, but this has fallen significantly in recent years while the number of people in the borough has increased. The council now has to reduce its spending by a further £23.6 million over the next two years.

The SCP service costs the council around £160,000 per year to run, and as it is not directly required under current legislation, it is proposed that this be removed as part of the required £23.6 million reduction.

Under this proposal, the council would offer to continue to operate SCPs for schools who choose to "buy back" the service from their own budgets, or from any viable alternative funding source. This is similar to the approach taken by some other councils faced with the same funding challenge. We are keen to maintain patrols wherever alternative funding can be found to support them, and are open to any ideas as to how we could support the schools in maintaining their safeguarding duties beyond the school gates.

The council is working hard to promote slower and safer driving around schools through a wide range of road safety measures, regardless of the outcome of this consultation. The introduction of 20mph speed restrictions around all primary schools is almost complete, and traffic surveys will be carried out to assess compliance. A mobile CCTV offer to enforce school 'keep clear' markings went live this year. Additional enforcement proposals are being developed. We will continue to provide road safety education to all pupils.

The consultation will run from 25th November 2016 to **15th January 2017**. Any petitions must be received by the closing date, and the consultation summary will be reported at the Cabinet meeting on 21st March 2017.

To share your views, please go to our consultations webpage:
<http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/consultations> . The webpage contains further information about this proposal and a link to a short online survey.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this consultation.

Fatima Ahmed
Road Safety Manager