

School Organisation Consultation

**Proposal to open a Specialist
Centre (SEN Unit) at
Chandlers Field Primary
School**

February 2021



Introduction

1. This paper outlines a proposal for the development of places for primary pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and who have Autism or Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC) in Surrey. This designation is known locally as High COIN. The process and timescales are outlined below to open a new specialist centre (SEN Unit) at Chandlers Field Primary School, which is situated in the north east of the county.

Background

2. Chandlers Field Primary School is a two-form entry primary school in the borough of Elmbridge in Surrey. The school was rated 'good' by Ofsted in October 2017 and does not currently have a specialist centre.

Proposal

3. It is proposed that Chandlers Field Primary School hosts a specialist Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) centre for pupils with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and Communication and Interaction Needs. All pupils placed at the specialist centre by Surrey County Council would have an EHCP specifying the school as an appropriate placement to meet their individual needs. A bespoke building would be provided for the specialist centre and located within the school grounds.

Rationale

4. Demand for specialist centre provision in the north east area for pupils with Special Educational needs is high. As a result, other specialist provision in the local area is operating at or above capacity. The provision of an additional High COIN specialist centre (SEN Unit) will help support local families who would otherwise have to travel further afield. This will increase availability of specialist school places that are matched appropriately to need-type, phases of education and geographic location, as well as reduce home to school journey times and associated costs.
5. Specialist Centres can offer opportunities for learners with ASC who would benefit from spending approximately 50% of their time in mainstream classes with support. The school can support learners develop strategies to successfully manage their social communication and interaction needs, sensory sensitivities together with ways of coping with co-morbid issues such as anxiety.
6. The benefits of a Specialist Centre specifically in relation to children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) are in the following areas:
 - Developing Friendships and relationships
 - Developing and maintaining wellbeing, achievement, communication and independence throughout all key stages.
 - Mentoring
 - Flexibility of accessing parts of the mainstream curriculum
 - Maximisation of opportunities for developing independence and independent travel skills

Pupil Placement

7. Pupils attending the centre would be in addition to the mainstream Planned Admission Number (PAN) of the school, as there is an expectation that a minimum of 50% of the school day would be spent as part of the centre. This would enable meaningful inclusion into the mainstream classes which is wholly individualised to the needs of the pupil. Some pupils may spend more time in the centre than others and it would be the responsibility of the school to manage the specialist offer and inclusion levels in partnership with the parents and LA officers.
8. School places are allocated in accordance with the Children and Families Act 2014, which requires the Local Authority to take into account the child's special educational needs, parental request for schools, and the formal view of the schools requested before making a decision. Places will be allocated based on parental requests wherever possible, unless:
 - the school is unsuitable for the child's age, ability, aptitude or SEN
 - the placement would be incompatible with the efficient education of the other children with whom your child would be educated, and
 - the placement would be incompatible with the efficient use of resources.
 The document '[SEND admissions processes for referrals for specialist placement for school age children](#)' describes how this process works and is available on the Surrey County Council website.

Finance and Resourcing

9. Each Specialist Centre pupils on roll at the school would receive the usual sum of Average Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU), the basic per pupil funding as outlined in [The national funding formula for schools and high needs:2021 - 2022](#). Each agreed planned place (25 at full capacity) commissioned would receive £6,000. Each pupil in attendance would receive an individual pupil 'top up' sum. For High COIN pupils the current sum is £7252.86. This rate applies to all specialist centres across all Surrey school which host a centre of this type. Top up rates for all specialist centres can be found using the link below:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/teachers-and-education-staff/finance/special-educational-needs-sen-related-funding>

10. The additional funding (over and above the ordinary AWPU) available for a full centre would therefore be:

25 Place Centre total at current rates	
25 planned places @ £6000	£150000
25 places of top up at £7252.86	£181321.50
Total funding per financial year	£331321.50

11. From this overall sum the school would provide all the staffing required for the specialist centre (teacher in charge of the centre, teaching and support staff) to enable a meaningful specialist offer, as well as mainstream inclusion. A sum of £8,000 for each classroom in the specialist centre would be provided to purchase classroom resources.

Capital planning and buildings

12. The Local Authority has developed a standard and enhanced modular building option to support SEND pupils. Due to the level of need for this cohort of pupils, the Local Authority is offering the enhanced building option to accommodate this new centre at Chandlers Field Primary School. This facility will provide two ordinary sized classrooms, toilets (EYFS and Key Stage 1 access directly from the classroom) and four additional spaces that can be utilised flexibly: small group working rooms, therapy delivery, 1:1 working, meeting, teachers' Planning Preparation and Assessment time (PPA) and administration space. The LA (via a Project Manager) is working with the school to identify a suitable location on the site and conduct the necessary planning and delivery of the scheme.

Growth Model

13. The Local Authority is increasing the specialist estate at pace to provide a highly specialist offer in the north east quadrant of Surrey. There would be a requirement to 'grow' the centre quickly. The following scenario shows an intake of 7 pupils in Sept 2021, but there would be capacity to increase this number in January 2022 once the building is complete.

Key stage entry in Year R and Year 3 including additional 'in year' admissions

Academic Year	Numbers of learners per NC Year Group								Funding example			
	NCY 0	NCY 1	NCY 2	NCY 3	NCY 4	NCY 5	NCY 6	TOTAL	Base funding	Top up of pupils on	Total funding	
2021-2022	3			4				7	£42,000.00	£50,770.02	£92,770.02	
2021-2022 (additional capacity)	3	2	1	4			3	14	£84,000.00	£101,540.04	£185,540.04	
2022-2023	3	3	2	4	4		3	19	£114,000.00	£137,804.34	£251,804.34	
2023-2024	3	3	3	4	4	4		21	£126,000.00	£152,310.06	£278,310.06	
2024-2025	3	3	3	4	3	4	4	24	£144,000.00	£174,068.64	£318,068.64	
2025-2026	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	25	£150,000.00	£181,321.50	£331,321.50	
TOTAL	Year on Year availability								25			

Key

New intake

Pupils already on roll

Pupils already on roll and new intake

Consultations, approvals and overall timescales

14. It is proposed that the specialist centre opens from 1 September 2021. The proposed changes require a period of consultation, the publication of Statutory Notices and the agreement of Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for All-age Learning if the proposal is to proceed.

15. The first stage of consultation will be informal and will open on Monday 22 February 2021. During this period the Surrey County Council will share its proposals with the wider professional network, schools including headteachers and chairs of governors, with unions, parent representatives, partner agencies and with the staff and parents of the school subject to the proposals.

16. Following the informal consultation period, it is proposed to publish a Statutory Notice for a four week period. The publication of Notices is when the local authority formally

states that it intends to implement the proposed changes. This will be the final opportunity for consultees to make their views known before a final decision is taken. Following the consultation periods officers will summarise the feedback and will report to the Cabinet Member for All-age Learning. A decision is due in June 2021.

Have your say

Surrey County Council and Chandlers Field School would like to know what people in the area feel about the proposal. The consultation will open on Monday 22 February 2021.

You can respond by:

a) Accessing the consultation online on the 'Surrey Says' website: www.surreysays.co.uk and searching for the school's consultation (school name or post code), or by scrolling through the list of open consultations.

b) Completing the consultation response form that is available alongside this document. You can email the form or print it, complete it and send it back to the address below.

Chandlers Field High COIN SC
Education Place Planning
Quadrant Court,
35 Guildford Road,
Woking GU22 7QQ.

Email: schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk with the subject: FAO Chandlers Field High COIN SC

All responses must be received by 19 April 2021

What happens next?

We will hold an online public meeting for parents and any other interested parties to discuss the proposals and to hear your views. As a public meeting, anyone who wishes to may attend, please email school.org@surreycc.gov.uk to register your interest and you will be sent a link to the online event. The online event will be held on 3 March 2021 at 10.30am, there will be a short presentation followed by questions and answers.

Please join to share your views and ask questions. You do not have to have a child at the school to join the meeting.

At the end of the consultation period, we will review all the responses received and share these with the school and publish them on the Surrey Says website.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation we intend to publish a Statutory Notice at the school, in a local newspaper and on the Surrey Says website stating our intention to open a new specialist centre. There will be a four week statutory consultation period for further representations to be received by the council.

All representations will be reviewed before a final decision is taken by the Cabinet Member for All-age Learning at the decision meeting in June 2021.