

Proposed New ASD Designated Special School for North West Surrey

**LA Consultation Analysis**

**January 2022**

## Initial LA Consultation – Feedback Analysis

### Background

SCC is proposing to establish new Special Free School provision in the West of the County to accommodate autistic boys and girls and those with communication and interaction needs aged 4 to 19. Admissions will be in line with Surrey’s SEND Admissions process ([Choosing a school place for a child with an EHCP - Surrey County Council (surreycc.gov.uk)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/child-with-a-ehcp)). It is envisaged that the new school would provide 176 to 200 places at full capacity. The initial local authority consultation – the first step in the process of opening a new school – ran from 15 November 2021 to 17 December 2021: this document provides analysis the 209 responses received.

### Respondents

The majority of the responses came from parents as shown in the table and chart below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Response %** |
| Parents | 65% |
| Education Professionals | 17% |
| Residents | 7% |
| Other Family Members | 4% |
| Other | 7% |

### Breakdown of Residence of Respondents

The consultation proposed the establishment of a new Special Free School in the West of the County so it is perhaps no surprise that the majority of the responses came from people living in districts to the West. The highest proportion of responses came from Surrey Heath in the North West. A breakdown by district and quadrant is shown in Table 1:

Table 1: Resident District & Borough of responders to LA Consultation

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **District** | **Responses** | **Response %** |
| Elmbridge | 7 | 3% |
| Epsom and Ewell | 5 | 2% |
| Guildford | 19 | 9% |
| Mole Valley | 21 | 10% |
| Reigate and Banstead | 11 | 5% |
| Runnymede | 8 | 4% |
| Spelthorne | 19 | 9% |
| Surrey Heath | 62 | 30% |
| Tandridge | 4 | 2% |
| Waverley | 25 | 12% |
| Woking | 16 | 8% |
| Elsewhere | 10 | 5% |
| Unknown | 2 | 1% |

Table 2: Resident Quadrant of responders to LA Consultation

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Quadrant** | **Responses** | **Response %** |
| North East | 31 | 15% |
| North West | 86 | 41% |
| South East | 36 | 17% |
| South West | 44 | 21% |
| Other | 12 | 6% |

### General Themes

As part of the consultation, respondents were given the opportunity to put forward their view in a free text format. An analysis of these responses has picked up the following general themes:

1. Geography

a. Provision needs to be evenly spread around the county.

b. Other areas also have need for more provision.

2. Need

a. There is a general recognition of the need for more Autism and Communication & Interaction Needs places.

b. That need is seen as urgent and large in scale.

3. Travel

a. A new school would be welcomed if it would mean children being able to access local provision.

b. Reducing travel times would be a significant benefit.

4. Existing gaps in provision. There is a view that there are gaps in provision for:

a. High functioning autistic pupils and those with communication and interaction needs;

b. Autistic girls and girls with communication and interaction needs;

c. Autistic children and those with communication and interaction needs who find accessing a school places difficult.

5. Type of offer

a. Views were expressed that the school should include post-16.

b. Different, varying types of needs around Autism and Communication & Interaction Needs should be catered for.

### Overall Themes

Two questions were asked to gauge each respondent’s general view of the proposal. The responses were overwhelmingly positive as shown in Table 3:

Table 3: Heading here

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Yes** | **Not Sure** | **No** |
| Do you agree with the proposal to open a new Special Free School with places for up to 200 pupils with ASC in West Surrey from September 2024? | 202 | 7 | 0 |
| Do you agree that there is a need for additional Special School provision in the West of Surrey to serve children and young people with ASC needs? | 207 | 2 | 0 |

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### Negative Responses and Issues Raised

As explained above, the vast majority of responses were positive with 99% stating that they agreed there was a need for additional ASD designated Specialist School places and 97% agreeing there was a need for a new school. The remaining responses said they were not sure. The reasons they gave were focused on 4 areas (these are addressed in a separate FAQ document – hyperlink in here):

1. Location – why West Surrey when there was also a need for more provision in the North and the East?
2. Free Schools – concerns raised over why the new school should be a Free School. (The law states that all new schools must be Free Schools).
3. Mainstream inclusion – would more SEN Units in mainstream schools be better?
4. Types of ASD need – whether the new provision would support autistic children and those with communication and interaction needs working at broadly age-related expectations, as compared to those with severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties. This is addressed in a separate FAQ document