

Consultation Analysis

**(Informal consultation and
Statutory Notices)**

Proposal to expand the SEN (Special
Educational Needs) Unit at Hythe
Primary School



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Consultation Analysis - Proposal to expand the SEN (Special Educational Needs) Unit at Hythe Primary School

Introduction

This report is an analysis of responses gathered on the proposal to expand the SEN Unit at Hythe Primary School.

Surrey County Council published an informal consultation from 7 November to 5 December 2022. After reviewing initial responses Statutory notices were published from 13 January 2023 to 10 February 2023.

Part 1 of this paper is an analysis of the responses received during the informal consultation notice period and Part 2 is an analysis of the responses during the Statutory Notices. The summary and key points give a summary of the findings from both consultations. This paper will be submitted to the Lead Cabinet Member for Education and Learning as part of the Lead Cabinet Member report, for consideration in the decision to determine the statutory notices on 25 April 2023.

Consultation Summary

The aim of the consultation was to seek views on the proposal from all interested parties, particularly from pupils and their families who attend Hythe Primary School, pupils and their families who may attend the school in the future, and the views of the local community.

The informal consultation was open from 7 November to 5 December 2022. The associated documentation was published on the Surrey County Council 'Surrey Says' website and circulated to local stakeholders. Interested parties were invited to return responses to the consultation via an online form or alternatively email or post responses.

A public meeting was offered on 21 November 2022 at 6pm.

The Statutory Notices were published from 13 January 2023 to 10 February 2023. The associated documentation was published on the Surrey County Council 'Surrey Says' website and circulated to local stakeholders. The notices were also published in the Surrey Advertiser on 13 January 2023. Interested parties were invited to return responses to the consultation via an online form or alternatively email or post responses.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is in progress and has been informed by responses to the informal consultation period. The Equality Impact Assessment will continue throughout the statutory notice period and will be submitted with papers at the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning Meeting.

Key points from the consultation responses:

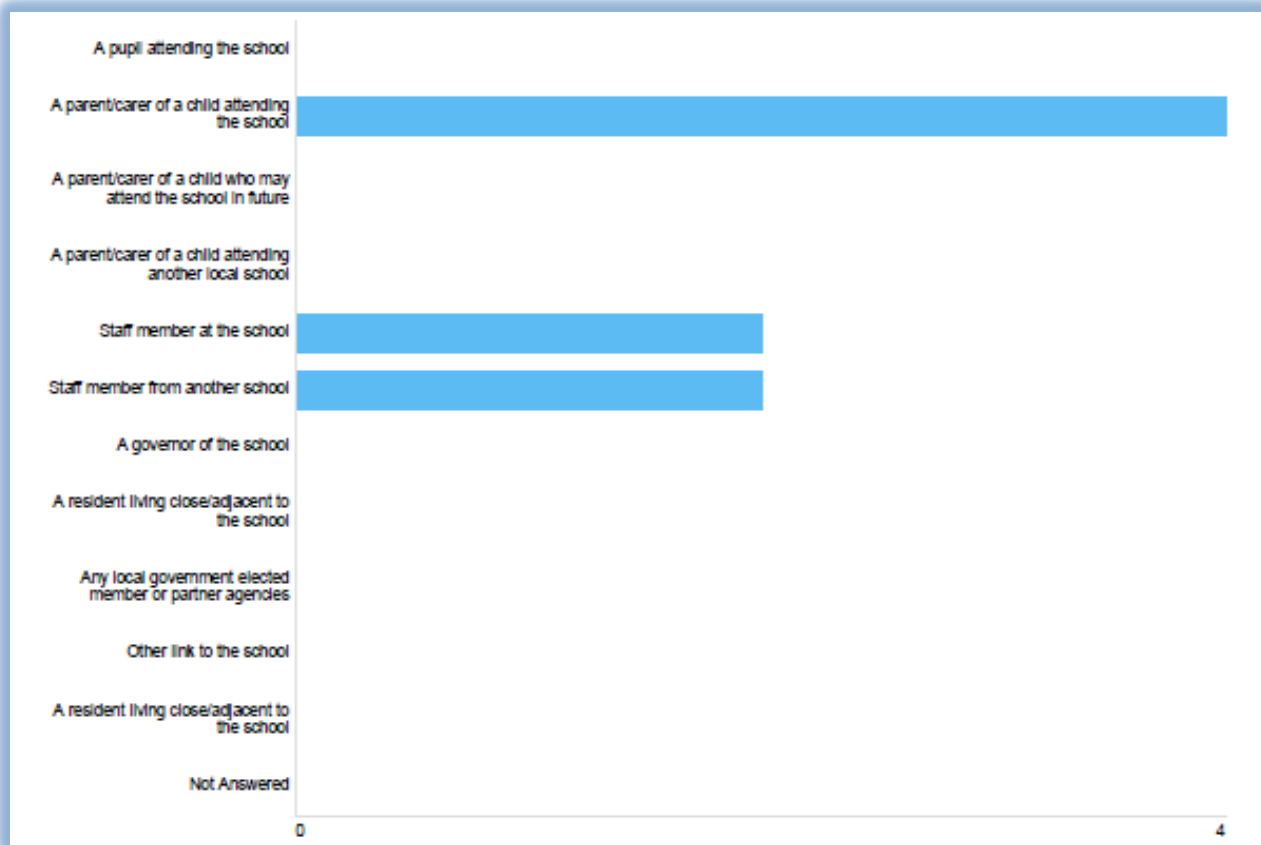
1. There were **8** responses to the informal consultation and 2 responses to the statutory notice period.
2. **87.5%** (7 people) of respondents to the informal consultation **agreed** with the proposal. 100% of respondents (2 people) to the statutory notices agreed with the proposal.
3. The majority of respondents commented on **the need for more specialist provisions** in Surrey for children and young people with learning needs.

Part 1 – Information consultation

Quantitative Analysis

There were 8 responses to the consultation. 7 respondents agreed with the proposal and 1 respondent disagreed with the proposal to expand the SEN unit at Hythe Primary School.

The chart below shows the distribution of responses to the consultation. The highest percentage of respondents selected a parent of a child attending the school (50%).



Qualitative Analysis

Respondents had the opportunity to add comments at the end of the survey. Out of 8 respondents 5 left comments; 4 parents/carers of children at the school and 1 member of staff from the school.

Respondents mentioned the need for more specialist provision and commented on the positive impact for children with ASD and those with communication and interaction needs, as well as positive impacts for the school.

“Any opportunity to provide SEN places will be greatly appreciated by all Surrey Heads, so please consider more plans.”

“Children need this and they need more space in a unit! There's currently not enough spaces in Surrey for them”

“I have an autistic son who is amazing in every way. Every help to make sure our kids achieve everything they can in life is more than welcome. Every child should have an opportunity and the help they need to be able to succeed.”

The respondent who disagreed with the proposal, expressed concerns that the expansion may have a negative impact upon children who are currently educated in the SEN unit, particularly in relation to increased funding.

“I would have concerns that such an expansion from 25 to 41 places could have a negative impact on them and the support that was agreed as part of the EHCP process. [...] We would be concerned about a stretch in the amount of support our children need to meet their education, communication and emotional needs if resource isn't increased appropriately.”

The respondent also reflected on the need for more specialist provision for children in Surrey but was concerned that there are not visibly more expansions of places for children with additional needs.

“However it was disappointing to see that their doesn't seem to be a wider balancing of growth across many of the other surrey based schools with the majority showing no plans to expand, even by 1 or 2 places that could lighten the burden”

Public Meetings

An online public meeting was offered on 21 November 2022 at 6pm using Microsoft Teams. There were no participants on the day, therefore the online presentation did not take place. No enquiries were made to request another date/time.

A copy of the meeting presentation was published on Surrey Says alongside the consultation information.

Part 2 – Statutory Notices

Quantitative Analysis

There were 2 responses to the consultation; both respondents (100%) agreed with the proposal to expand the SEN unit.

One respondent identified as “a parent/carer of a child attending the school” and the other respondent selected “other link to school.”

Qualitative Analysis

Respondents had the opportunity to add comments at the end of the survey and both respondents (2) left feedback.

Positive Impacts

Both respondents mentioned the positive impacts of expanding the SEN Unit, commenting on the need for more school places and specialist provision for autistic pupils and those with communication and interaction needs.

“It is desperately needed, further SEN and ASD provision is needed to support local children.”

“There is not enough of this type of provision in Surrey and so many children are being failed and kept in traumatic situations, facing exclusion or school refusal, so this expansion is desperately needed.”

Recommendations:

The recommendation is that the proposal should continue to the next phase for a final decision taken by the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning at the decision meeting in April 2023.