

# Consultation Analysis

Proposal to expand the existing SEN  
(Special Educational Needs)  
Unit at Stepgates Community School



**SURREY**  
COUNTY COUNCIL

# Consultation Analysis - Proposal to expand the existing SEN (Special Educational Needs) Unit at Stepgates Community School

## Introduction

This report is an analysis of responses gathered on the proposal to expand the existing SEN Unit at Stepgates Community School.

Surrey County Council published an informal consultation from 7 November to 5 December 2022.

Statutory notices are due to be published in January 2023. Analysis of the responses during the statutory notices will be added to this paper and 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.

## 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 Stepgates Community School, pupils and their families who may attend the school in the future, other special schools in Surrey, local schools and 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 24 November 2022 at 7pm.

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. **4 people** responded to the consultation
2. **100%** of respondents **agree** with the consultation
3. Respondents commented on the **positive** impacts for children and young people and the school

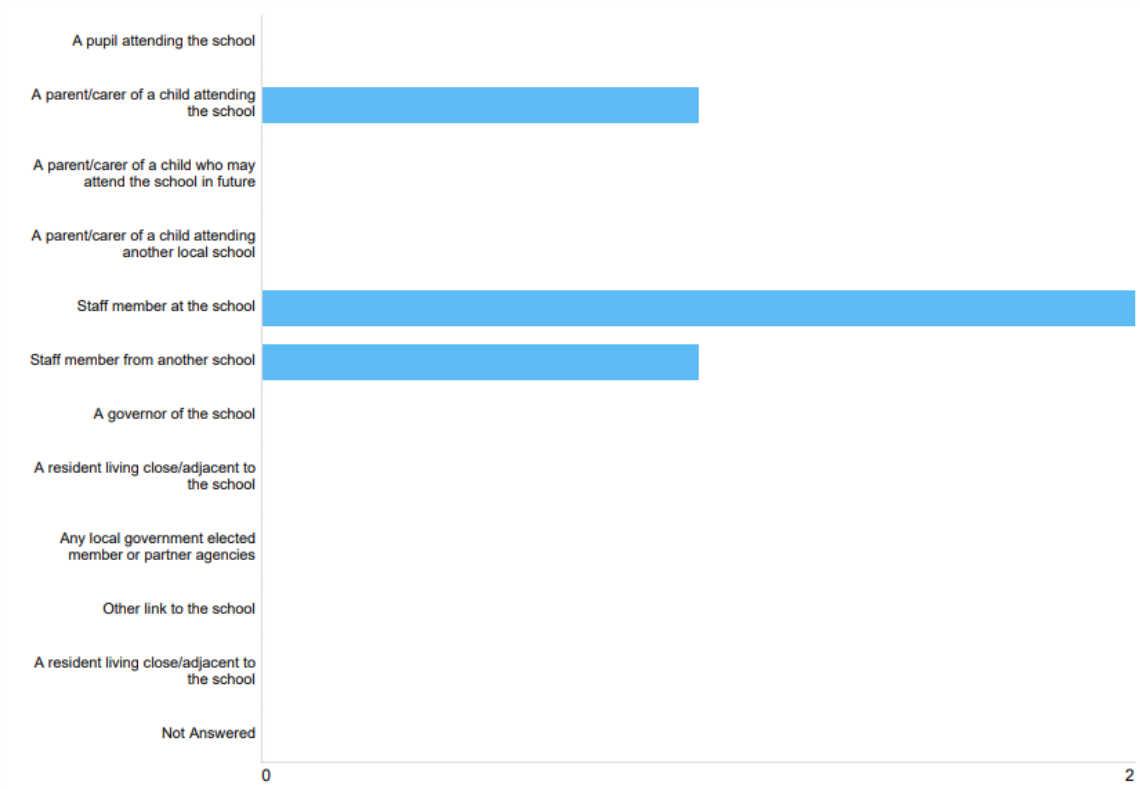
## Recommendations:

The recommendations are that the proposal should continue to the next phase and that Statutory Notices are published in January 2023 for a final decision taken by the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning at the decision meeting.

## Quantitative Analysis

There were 4 responses to the consultation. 100% of respondents agreed with the proposal to expand the existing SEN Unit at Stepgates Community School.

The chart below shows the distribution of responses to the consultation. The highest percentage of respondents selected “staff member at the school” (50%).



## Qualitative Analysis

Respondents had the opportunity to add comments at the end of the survey. Out of the 4 respondents, 1 person left a comment. This individual felt that the expansion at Stepgates Community School is welcomed, as there is a need for more specialist school places.

*“This is very much needed as the children in the [...] area needs of communication, speech and language is increasing. There is not enough external support and not enough specialist support/placements”*

After the closing date for responses, the below comment was received regarding the proposal:

*“[...] through my work with and my understanding of the leadership at Stepgates I can thoroughly recommend this proposal and give it my full support”*

## Public Meetings

An online public meeting was offered on 24 November via Microsoft Teams. There were no participants on the day, so therefore the meeting 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.