

# Consultation Analysis

**(Informal consultation and  
Statutory Notices)**

Proposal to expand the existing SEN  
(Special Educational Needs)

Unit at Stepgates

Community School



**SURREY**  
COUNTY COUNCIL

## Consultation Analysis (Informal and Statutory Notice period)

### 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.

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 Notice period. 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 for consideration 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 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.

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 was completed throughout the informal consultation and statutory notice period. Responses to the consultations contribute to the Equality Impact Assessment which can be viewed with the papers for the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning Meeting on 25 April 2023.

#### Key points from the consultation responses:

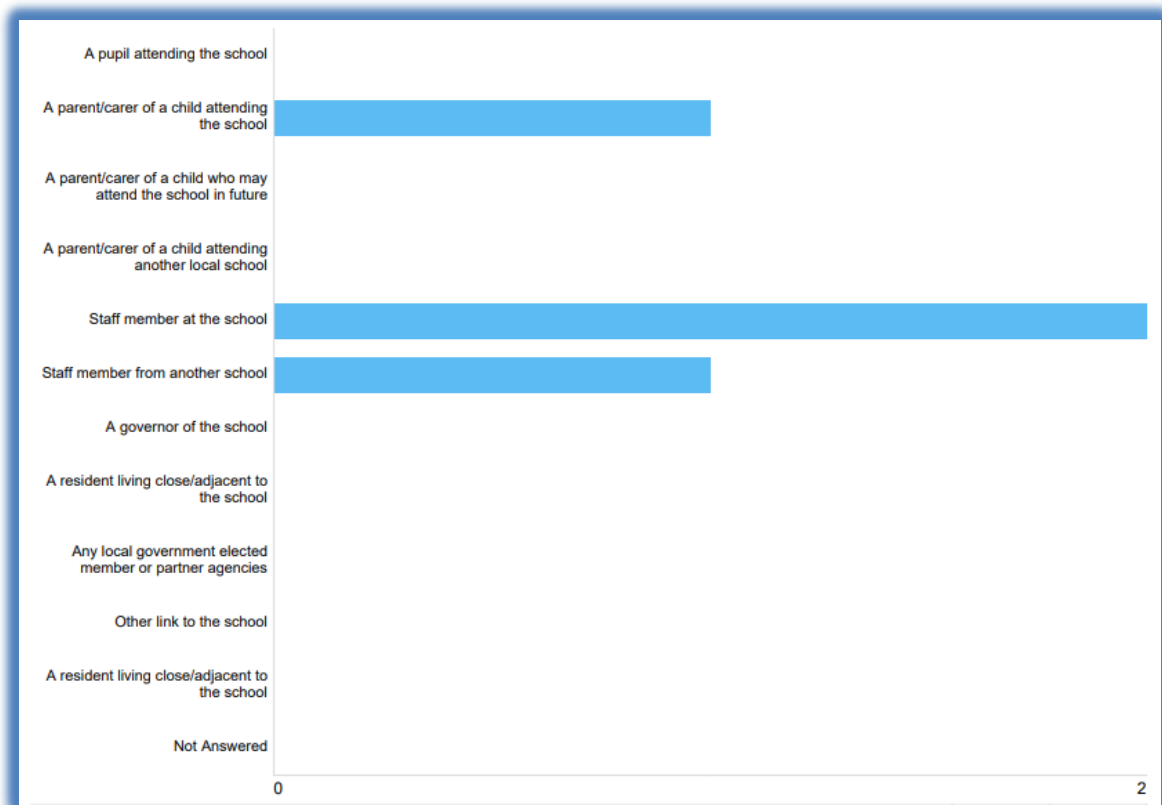
1. There were **4** responses to the informal consultation and **12** responses during the statutory notice period.
2. **100%** of respondents to informal consultation **agreed** with the proposal. **92%** of respondents to the statutory notices agreed with the proposal.
3. Respondents commented on the **positive** impacts for children and young people and the school.

## Part 1 – Information consultation

### 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.

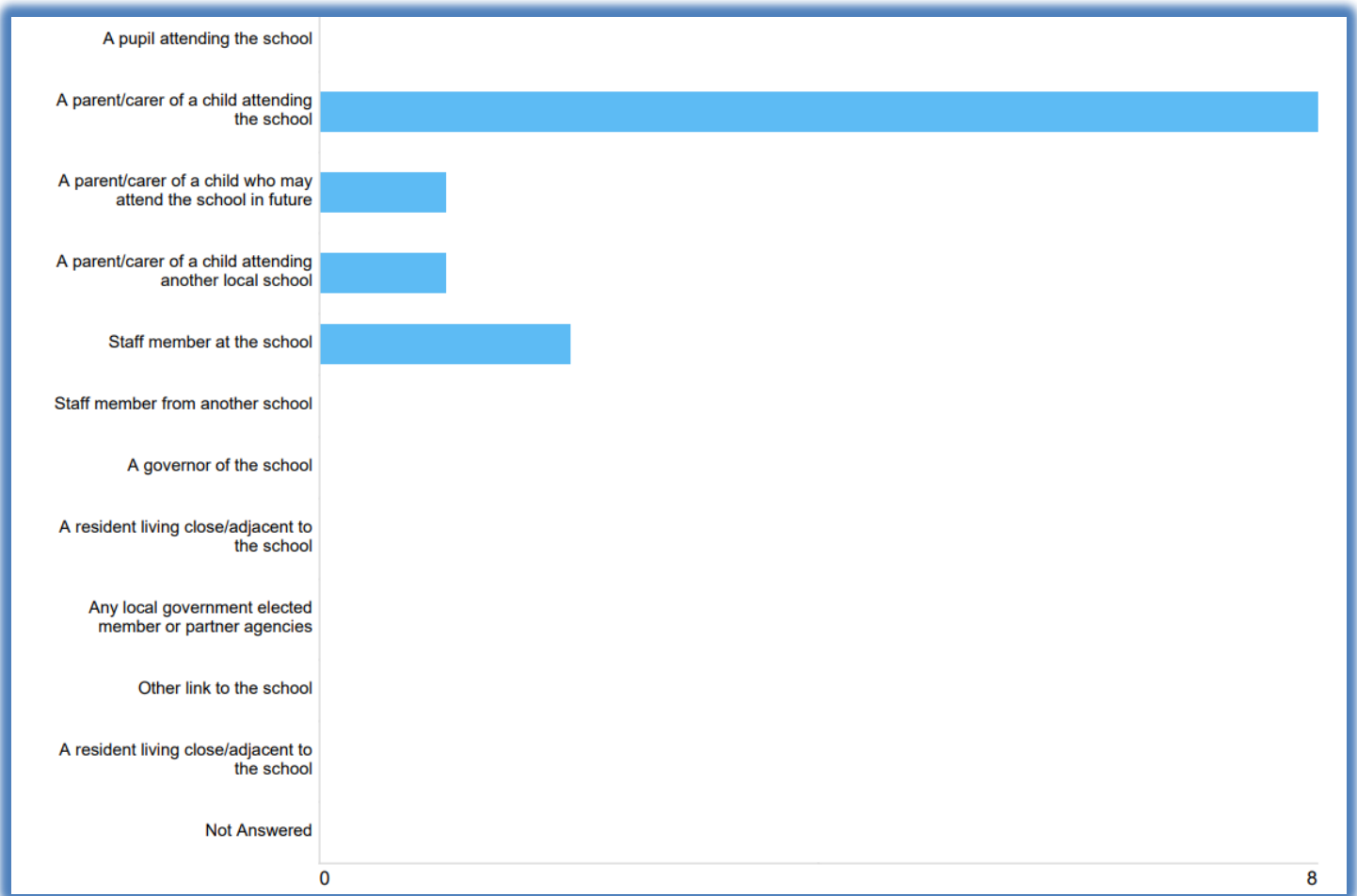
A copy of the meeting presentation was published on Surrey Says alongside the consultation information.

## Part 2 – Statutory Notices

### Quantitative Analysis

There were 12 responses to the consultation. 92% of respondents agreed with the proposal and 8% of respondents disagreed with the proposal.

The chart below shows the distribution of responses to the consultation. The highest percentage of respondents selected parent/carer (83%), either of a child attending the school, a child who may attend the school in the future, or of a child attending another school.



## Qualitative Analysis

Respondents had the opportunity to add comments at the end of the survey. Out of 12 respondents, 4 left comments.

### Positive Impacts

3 out of 4 respondents who left a comment mentioned the positive impacts of expanding the SEN Unit, commenting on the need for more specialist provision.

*“Any additional provision is a good idea.”*

*“Increasing the capacity of Stepgates will allow more children to attend the specialist service.”*

*“The SEN unit currently running at Stepgates is fantastic. Expanding it to allow more children to access it can only be a good thing as long as any additional staffing requirements are met.”*

### Negative Impacts

One respondent commented on the proposed expansion having a potential negative impact on other children attending the school.

*“I feel that increasing the amount further detracts focus on other pupils that do not need extra support therefore may affect their learning”*

### Questions

One question was received by a respondent:

*“How many extra teachers will need to be employed to support the increased amount? Could these be funds be put towards school improvements for all students to better their education and experience of school?”*

Stepgates Community School will continue to support all pupils, and all staff will benefit from shared learning and resources that will influence how pupils are supported across the school. The school will continue to manage their budget and additional staff will be employed as needed to support the increased number of pupils.